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FBIS-NES-90-029 CONTENTS *12 February 1990*

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi, Pelletreau Discuss Soviet Jews' Emigration *[TAP]* 1
Arab League Delegation Reportedly To Visit USSR *[KUNA]* 1
Arab League on GDR Responsibility for Nazis *[Tunis Radio]* 1
Arab League Hails Islamic Conference *[KUNA]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

USSR Reportedly Accepts PLO Demands on Jews *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 8 Feb]* 2
'Joint Army' Proposed To Fight Jewish Influx *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
Abu-Sharif on Emigration Issue, Bus Incident *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 9 Feb]* 2
Abu-Sharif Holds News Conference in Tunis *[TAP]* 3
'Arafat Holds News Conference in Baghdad 11 Feb *[MENA]* 4
'Arafat Says Peace Initiatives 'About To Fail' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
'Arafat Receives 'Urgent' Letter From Mubarak *[Baghdad VOP]* 5
PLO Delegation To Visit Philippines 11 Feb *[Baghdad VOP]* 5
'Arafat Appeals to World Peace Council *[APS]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Government Ready To Attend Tripartite Meeting *[MENA]* 6
Israel's Stand 'Main Obstacle' to Peace Efforts *[Cairo Radio]* 6
'Abd-al-Majid on Peace Efforts, Jewish Emigration *[MENA]* 6
Use of Arms Against Jewish Immigrants Urged *[AL-MUSAWWAR 2 Feb]* 7
Attack on Presidential Palace in Cairo Aborted 7
    Interior Ministry Statement *[MENA]* 7
    Mubarak Reacts *[MENA]* 8
    Condoles Attacker's Family *[MENA]* 8
Continued Reportage on Israeli Bus Incident 8
    Information Obtained *[MENA]* 8
    Prosecutor Views Videotape *[MENA]* 8
    Minister Says Tourism Unaffected *[MENA]* 8
    U.S., Israel, Egypt Blamed *[AL-AHALI 7 Feb]* 8
    Palestinian Envoy Fingers Israel *[MENA]* 9
    Paper Examines Motives *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Feb]* 9
Mubarak Cables Congratulations to Mandela *[MENA]* 10
Mubarak Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi 9 Feb *[MENA]* 10
Finnish Defense Minister Departs *[MENA]* 10
Zambian Foreign Minister Arrives *[MENA]* 10
Al-Baz in Moscow To Prepare for Mubarak Visit *[MENA]* 11
Assembly Member Brandishes Knife, Resigns *[MENA]* 11
*Muslim Brotherhood Plans To Form Political Party *[London AL-MAJALLAH 30 Jan]* 11
University Students Demonstrate Against Israel *[AL-WAFD 11 Feb]* 11
Security Forces Detain 7 'Extremists' *[MENA]* 12
NPUG Central Committee Statement *[AL-AHALI 31 Jan]* 12

Morocco

- Mexican Foreign Secretary Solana Arrives 8 Feb *[NOTIMEX]* 14
  - Solano To Inaugurate Embassy *[Rabat Radio]* 15

Sudan

- Al-Bashir Visits Juba; 'Confident' of Situation *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
  - Addresses Residents *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
- Former Ministers, Political Detainees Released *[SUNA]* 16
- Troops Kill 110 'Rebel Outlaws' in Upper Nile *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
- Government Hails Release of Nelson Mandela *[SUNA]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

- Media Comment on Israeli Bus Incident in Egypt 17
  - U.S. Meeting Decision Viewed *[AL-WATAN 7 Feb]* 17
  - Shamir To Exploit Attack *[AL-SIYASAH 7 Feb]* 17
  - Attack Has Benefits for Israel *[AL-SIYASAH 7 Feb]* 18
- Foreign Under Secretary Talks With John Kelly *[KUNA]* 19

Saudi Arabia

- Papers Respond to Israeli Bus Incident in Egypt 19
  - Israel Stands Accused *[AL-MADINAH 6 Feb]* 19
  - 'Serves Enemies of Peace' *['UKAZ 6 Feb]* 19
- Thai Official Arrives With Condolences *[Riyadh Radio]* 20
  - Comments on Diplomats' Deaths *[SPA]* 20

IRAQ

- Turkish Minister Arrives With Ozal 'Response' *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
  - Conveys Message to Saddam *[INA]* 22
  - Confers With Oil Minister *[INA]* 22
  - Meets Industry Minister *[INA]* 22
  - Talks With Hammadi *[Voice of the Masses]* 22
- 'Aziz Confers With Assistant Secretary Kelly *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
- 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 10 Feb *[Baghdad VOP]* 22
- Yugoslav Minister Discusses Joint Projects *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 9 Feb]* 23
- 'Urgent Action' Needed To Deal With Emigration *[INA]* 23
- Newspaper Condemns Iran's 'Devious Stance' *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

- Further on Affects of Bus Attack, Peace Issues 24
  - Tripartite Meeting 'Next Week' *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
  - PLO Stand Pleases U.S. *[HA'ARETZ 11 Feb]* 24
  - Alignment Leaders Pose Conditions *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
  - Attack 'Aimed Against Peace' *[AL-SHA'B 8 Feb]* 25
  - Jihad Palestinians Behind Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
  - Rabin Confirms Deportees' Role *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
  - 'No Knowledge' of Cairo Plans *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
  - Shamir Asked To Restate Objection *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
- Polls: Shamir Has 'Absolute Majority,' Support *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Feb]* 26
- Shamir Sees No Compromise Prior to Likud Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
- Shamir Speech To Allay Constraints' Demands *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
- Further on Jewish Immigration to Territories 28
  - CSSR Refuses Transit Role *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
  - Envoy to USSR Comments *[Jerusalem TV]* 28

  - Netanyahu Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
  - Increase in Moscow Staff Possible *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
- Modrow Statement on Holocaust Examined *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
- Foreign Ministry 'Welcomes' Mandela Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
- Shamir: No New Agreements With South Africa *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
- Shamir Welcomes Resumption of Ties With CSSR *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
- EC, Other States Take Action Against State *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
- Cabinet Briefed on Jordan-PLO Relationship *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
- Commentary Assails Jordanian Press on Bus Attack *[Jerusalem International]* 30
- Further on Shomron's IDF, Budget Remarks *[HA'ARETZ 12 Feb]* 30
- 5 Deportees Said Operating in Cairo PLO Offices *[HA'ARETZ 9 Feb]* 31
- Youth Killed; Soldiers Hurt; Curfew Imposed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
- Peace Activist Nathan Released From Jail *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
- Meningitis Scare as Girl Dies, 3 Hospitalized *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
- Youth Hurt in Demonstration; Curfew in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
- 'Dozens' Wounded in Rafah; Collaborator Killed *[THE JERUSALEM POST]* 32
- Death of Local Youth Spark Riots in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Update on 11 Feb Events in Territories *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Feb]* 33

JORDAN

- Editorial Says Israel Behind Attack on Bus *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 11 Feb]* 34
- Baker's Message to Klibi Contains 'Enmity' *[AL-RA'Y 10 Feb]* 34
- Editorial Examines Soviet Statement on Emigration *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 10 Feb]* 34
- Minister Details Toxic Waste Policy to Parliament *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Feb]* 35
- Cabinet Declares Country 'Toxic Waste-Free Zone' *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Feb]* 35
- Lower House Calls For Reviving 'Eastern Front' *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Feb]* 35
- Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Departs 11 Feb *[Amman Radio]* 36

LEBANON

- 'Awn's Group Opens Fire 9 Feb, Shells Boat *[RFL]* 37
  - Civilians Killed in Sniper Fire *[VOL]* 37
  - Skirmishes Reported on Battle Lines *[VOL]* 37
- Mediation Committee Resumes Activities *[Beirut Radio]* 37
- Cease-Fire Agreement Reached; Violations Reported 37
  - Agreement Reached 10 Feb *[VOL]* 37
  - 'Awn Forces Disregard Cease-Fire *[VOL]* 37
  - 'Fierce' Fighting in E. Beirut *[VOL]* 37
  - Clashes Continue in Eastern Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 37
  - Army Headquarters Shelled *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 38
  - 'Awn Forces Halt Attack *[VOL]* 38
  - Bombardment, Clashes Continue *[VOL]* 38
  - Lebanese Forces Counterattack *[VOL]* 38
  - Elderly Residents Die in Sheling *[RFL]* 38
  - 'Large-Scale Violation' Reported *[VOL]* 38
  - Lebanese Forces Issue Statement *[VOL]* 39
  - LF Forces' Violations *[Voice of National Resistance]* 39
  - Ja'ja' Comments on 'Awn Violations *[RFL]* 39
  - Ja'ja' on Resumption of Fighting *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 40
  - Sfayr Appeals for Cease-Fire *[RFL]* 41
  - Papal Nunciature Appeals *[Beirut Radio]* 41
  - Overnight Clashes in Eastern Area *[Beirut Radio]* 42
  - Security Committee Fails To Meet *[VOL]* 42
  - 'Awn, Ja'ja' Said To Prepare for Battle *[Voice of National Resistance]* 42
  - 'Awn Forces Prepare Offensive *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 42
  - 'Awn Forces' Violations Continue *[VOL]* 42
- 'Awn Reportedly Not To 'Obstruct' Al-Ta'if Accord *[RFL]* 42
- Army Officers Form 'Neutral Command' Under Faris *[RFL]* 43
  - Faris Urges Rejection of 'Awn *[VOL]* 43
  - Reiterates Appeal to Soldiers *[VOL]* 43

Military Units Join Faris' 'Neutral Command' 44
  7th, 8th Brigade Units *[VOL]* 44
  Halat Air Base Personnel *[VOL]* 44
  93d Battalion *[VOL]* 45
  More Army Units Join *[VOL]* 45
  3d Al-Ansar Battalion *[RFL]* 45
Army Neutral Command Specifies Assembly Points *[VOL]* 45
'Awn Military Police Encircle 5th Brigade HQ *[VOL]* 45
'Awn Command Describes Faris as Deserter *[VOM]* 45
Israeli Troop Movements Reported in South *[VOL]* 46
2 Resistance Operations Reported in South *[Beirut Radio]* 46
'Awn Aide Urges New Initiative by Saudi King *[Voice of National Resistance]* 46
Beirut Security Plan Postponed; UK Officers Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Daily on 'Legitimate Government' Intervention *[VOL]* 46
Al-Hirawi Requests Support To End Situation *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 47
Al-Hirawi Prepares 'To Confront' Escalation *[RFL]* 47
Junblatt Escapes Assassination 3 Feb *[VOL]* 47
Junblatt Assails Deputies, Arab Officials *[VOM]* 47
Shams-al-Din in Damascus for Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 48

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Kabul Blames Kashmir 'Crisis' on Pakistan *[AFP]* 49
Baker-Shevardnadze Talks of 'Great Importance' *[BAKHTAR]* 49
Najibullah Congratulates Iran on Revolution *[Kabul Radio]* 49
Najibullah Sends Messages to Warsaw, Sofia *[BAKHTAR]* 50
Najibullah Addresses Military on Future Duties *[BAKHTAR]* 50
Najibullah Awards Medal to 'Hero, Pilot' *[Kabul Radio]* 50
BAKHTAR Details 6-8 Feb Military Operations 50

India

Security Forces Fire on 'Crowd' at Kashmir Border *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Spokesman Rejects Bhutto Statement on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Gujral Warns Pakistan Not To Misconstrue Policy *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Kashmir 'Peaceful'; 'Minor Explosion' in Srinagar *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Minister Asks 'Combat Readiness' of Soldiers *[Delhi TV]* 51
Gujral Meets Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Soviet Envoy Reiterates Support on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Construction of Temple at Disputed Site Deferred *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Naxalites Kidnap 2 People in Andhra Pradesh *[Delhi Radio]* 52

Iran

Mass Rally Celebrates Revolution's Anniversary *[IRNA]* 52
  Marchers Issue 6-Point Resolution *[Tehran Radio]* 53
  President Addresses Rally *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Mahdavi-Kani Warns Britain on Rushdie Issue *[IRNA]* 56
Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons 57
  First Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 57
  Second Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 60
  Arabic Sermon *[Tehran International]* 61
*New Interior Ministry Appointments Announced *[KEYHAN 11 Jan]* 62
Commentary Condemns India's Policy in Kashmir *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 25 Jan]* 62
Editorial Assesses Growth of Islamic Movement *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 27 Jan]* 63
*Report on 3 Jan 90 Majles Session *[RESALAT 4 Jan]* 64

Pakistan

6 Killed in Indian Border Firing; Envoy Summoned *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Kashmir Subject of Joint Session of Parliament 70
  Bhutto Addresses Session *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
  Bhutto Denies 'Foreign Agents' *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
  Resolution Adopted Unanimously *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Karachi Situation 'Peaceful'; 1 Killed 9 Feb *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
  'Warring Parties' Make Contact *[THE NATION 10 Feb]* 72
2 Killed, 4 Wounded in Exchange of Fire in Gilgit *[Islamabad Radio]* 72

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi, Pelletreau Discuss Soviet Jews' Emigration

LD1002000190 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1245 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, 9 Feb (TAP)—During his meeting in Tunis yesterday with U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau, Jr, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi expressed the Arab countries' concern and reservations about the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

In a statement to Tunisia's AL-WATAN published today, Klibi pointed out that the Arab reservations are of two types: "The first is a reservation in principle concerning human rights, because any measure that forces Soviet Jews to choose Israel and nothing else is not compatible with these rights."

The secretary general pointed out that in the past the Jewish emigrants emigrated through Vienna "and they had the right to choose the country in which they would like to settle, whether it was France, the United States, Australia, or even Israel. That measure was more compatible with human rights. But now they are driven like cattle—to use the expression of His Majesty King Hassan II—toward a compulsory destination and nowhere else."

About the second type of reservations, Chedli Klibi said: "In our opinion it is much more dangerous than the first. It concerns the peace process in which the United States itself is directly involved." He added: "We think that this process will be exposed to danger by the concentrated arrival of Soviet Jews who, according to the Likud, can at the end of the day only settle in the occupied territories in order to fulfill the old dream of a Greater Israel."

Klibi said: "In our opinion, as it undoubtedly is in the United States' opinion, the West Bank and Gaza are destined to be a homeland for the Palestinians. In other words, they are the territorial base for the independent Palestinian state which was declared in Algiers, and if hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are to (?settle) in these lands, the peace process will face obstacles that will kill it."

Chedli Klibi pointed out that during his talks with the U.S. ambassador, he expressed astonishment at certain statements calling for the setting up of an air link between the Soviet Union and Israel in order to facilitate a real process of human displacement at the expense of the Palestinian people.

The U.S. ambassador stressed "his true understanding of [word indistinct] despite the opposition he expressed [word indistinct]. The Arab League secretary general further said that dialogue with the Americans will continue (?at the level) of the Intifadah Committee "in an effort to convince our American interlocutors about the need to find other practical solutions to enable the Soviet Jews [passage indistinct].

Arab League Delegation Reportedly To Visit USSR

LD0802182790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1603 GMT 8 Feb 90

[By Khalid al-Tarrah]

[Text] Moscow, Feb 8 (KUNA)—An Arab League delegation will pay a visit to the Soviet Union soon with the aim of discussing the Middle East crisis and the peace process in the region, informed diplomatic sources told KUNA.

The sources said the five-member delegation will include Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi, but did not elaborate on the names of other members.

The sources said the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories would be among the issues to be discussed between the delegation and the Soviet officials.

According to the sources the visit is likely to take place within the next two weeks.

The immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied territories has angered the Arab world, particularly after Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir announced that there is a need for big Israel to absorb the rising numbers of Jewish immigrants.

Moscow last week warned Israel against the repercussions of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Arab League on GDR Responsibility for Nazis

LD1002001790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The Arab League has described East Germany's admission of its share of responsibility for the Nazi repression of Jews as assuming a very dangerous political nature. This was said in a comment by the Arab League official spokesman on the contents of a letter sent by East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow to the president of the World Jewish Congress which was published 8 February, in which Modrow said that his country recognized what he described as its humanitarian duties towards those Jewish people who had suffered from Nazi repression.

In his comment, the spokesman pointed out that although the decision to admit partial responsibility for the Nazi repression was a matter that concerned only the German people, it, nevertheless, assumed a very dangerous political nature. It comes at a time when the Israeli entity is seeking international financial aid to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in occupied Palestinian territories, and it involves great financial gains for the benefit of that entity.

Arab League Hails Islamic Conference

LD0902042290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1705 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, Feb 8 (KUNA)—The Arab League on Thursday hailed the role of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] in defending the causes of the Islamic nation and shrines.

In a statement issued here today on the occasion of the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the OIC, the League pointed out the many links binding the Arab League with the OIC and stressed that the Palestinian crisis had been the motive for the creation of the organization.

The statement said that the OIC, which is mainly concerned with the liberation of Holy Jerusalem, has played a distinguished role in defending the cause of the Palestinian people and the occupied Arab territories.

The statement recalled that the Arab League and the OIC have signed last September an agreement on mutual cooperation and coordination of stances toward major issues of joint concern.

Palestinian Affairs

USSR Reportedly Accepts PLO Demands on Jews

JN1002202190 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 8 Feb 90 p 31

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Official Palestinian sources have told AL-ANBA' that the Soviet Union yesterday, Wednesday, informed the PLO of its decision to halt implementation of the Aeroflot-El-Al agreement for direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

The sources added that Moscow also informed the PLO that no air or naval bridges will be established to transport Jewish groups from the Soviet Union to Israel and that the Kremlin has introduced a new law for emigration in which all nationalities will have equal rights.

In an exclusive comment to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas said this was a good step to resolve the issue of Jewish immigration.

It is worth mentioning that a high-level Palestinian delegation will visit Moscow in the next few days to discuss with the Soviet officials the memo sent by the Palestinian leadership to the Kremlin.

The memo includes a number of demands, some of which were already fulfilled following the visit made by Gennadiy Tarasov, assistant to the Soviet foreign minister, to Tunis and his meeting with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

The Palestinian memo includes other demands that were carried by Tarasov. The memo calls for giving those wishing to emigrate time to submit applications for other countries, such as Australia and Canada, and to issue proper passports to the emigrants instead of the laissez-passes so that they have the option to return if they wish. In addition, the memo urges the Soviet Union to pressure the U.S. Administration to cancel the decision preventing Soviet Jews from entering the United States, which forces them to go to occupied Palestine instead.

'Joint Army' Proposed To Fight Jewish Influx

JN0902191490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Syria has urged the Arab countries to form a joint army in order to confront the Zionist enemy, which poses a grave danger to the Arab world. The newspaper SYRIA TIMES [date not specified] said the leaders of the Zionist entity are determined to establish Greater Israel and occupy more of the Arab territories. It added that the Zionists now seek to evacuate the Arab areas of their inhabitants in order to build settlements that will accommodate the influx of immigrants, and that this is the essence of the Zionist plans to continue the policy of aggression and expansion.

About 100,000 Soviet Jews are expected to emigrate to the Zionist entity this year, and the majority of them will most likely be settled in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. SYRIA TIMES added that the Arab masses have become increasingly convinced that the only way to liberate the occupied territories is through armed struggle, and that the only language the enemy understands is the language of force.

Abu-Sharif on Emigration Issue, Bus Incident

JN1002211090 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 9 Feb 90 p 27

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the Palestinian president, has disclosed that a high-level Arab delegation will soon visit Moscow to express the Arab countries' concern over allowing Soviet Jewish emigrants to settle in occupied Palestine and also to explain the serious implications of this emigration.

Abu-Sharif did not rule out an Israeli operation to occupy Jordan to turn it into an alternative homeland for the Palestinians or in implementation of the ideas advocating the creation of Greater Israel.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', Abu-Sharif added that the PLO leadership discussed this issue with Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov during his recent visit to the Tunisian capital. He went on to say that the "Soviet friends" now understand the reasons for the Palestinian concern over the transportation of Jewish emigrants in direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

Abu-Sharif said that the influx of large numbers of emigrants would bolster and strengthen the hostile Israeli policy, which Shamir, Sharon, and other Israeli officials have not bothered to conceal. He added that this policy entails working to create new realities in the Middle East region—realities that would turn Jordan into an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, who will be evicted from the West Bank and probably Gaza Strip. Abu-Sharif did not rule out an Israeli invasion of Jordan to occupy it and make it part of Greater Israel. He expressed the belief that a large number of Soviet Jews would not opt for Israel if they were to choose their destination. He urged the Arab states to make persistent efforts to explain these facts to the Kremlin and to launch a diplomatic campaign designed to convince the USSR that that its strong keenness to grant Jews the right to emigrate should be coupled with a parallel effort to ensure that these emigrants are given the right to choose the place they want to emigrate to and also to make sure that they are not compelled to leave for Israel. He added that these emigrants would constitute a new army that could be used to realize expansionist ambitions still entertained by the Israeli prime minister.

Commenting on a statement made by U.S. President George Bush to the effect that the USSR must not ban direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, Abu-Sharif said that this runs contrary to U.S. statements, including statements previously made by President Bush himself, which rejected the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories. Besides, Bush said that he is against the building of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Abu-Sharif added. He indicated that the United States deliberately helped direct large numbers of Soviet Jews to Israel by its decision, which fixed a ceiling to the number of emigrants allowed to enter U.S. territory.

In reply to a question on how true are the reports saying that Palestinians carried out that the Ismailia-Cairo road bus attack, Abu-Sharif asserted that the Palestinians have nothing to do with this incident. He expressed the belief that the expansionist and racist Israeli mentality might actually be behind this incident.

Abu-Sharif Holds News Conference in Tunis

LD1002192790 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, 10 Feb (TAP)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, one of the high-ranking advisers of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, called on the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States, Eduard Shevardnadze and James Baker, who are currently meeting in Moscow, to make a decision that will preserve the superpowers' credibility in the Middle East region by establishing a just peace.

President 'Arafat's adviser said in a meeting with journalists yesterday—Friday—in Tunis, on the occasion of the advent of the 27th month of the Palestinian intifadah: We expect practical steps from the Soviet Union and the United States in order to establish peace in the Middle East in the way that the peoples of the region desire.

Abu-Sharif warned of the escalation of organized Zionist terrorism against the Palestinian people, as it will open the way to "individual extremism" in the whole area.

Abu-Sharif criticized the U.S. Administration's dawdling regarding the Israel repression, and wondered about Washington's silence concerning the violation of the U.S. law stipulating the discontinuation of aid to countries that violate human rights.

President 'Arafat's adviser further said: Regarding the issue of human rights, the U.S. Administration discriminates between the peoples of the world and the Palestinian people. He reminded that the United States had used its Security Council veto six times during the intifadah to block draft resolutions condemning Israeli terrorism, a matter which encouraged Shamir's government to step up repression.

He added that U.S. aid to Israel amounts to about $150 million per day and that each Israeli citizen receives $30,000 a year from U.S. taxpayers.

The Palestinian president's adviser said that, concerning Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine, the Palestinian leadership has continuously been in touch with the "Soviet friends" [words indistinct] which guarantee the reduction of tension in the Middle East region and discourage Israel from carrying out its expansionist dreams.

He pointed out that the PLO has asked Moscow not to compel Soviet Jews to go Israel by establishing a direct [air transportation] link with Tel Aviv and not to take passports away from Soviet Jewish emigrants, in order to give them a chance to go back to their country.

Bassam Abu-Sharif denied that a Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel has been chosen, as the Israeli MA'ARIV had reported, and said that the Islamic resistance movement "Hamas" and the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], led by George Habash, were to be excluded from such a delegation, given the rift in the ranks of the Palestinian revolutionary movement. He stressed in this respect that the PLO will choose its delegation following consultations and discussion between its official cadres so that the choice of the delegation will be a clear and legitimate decision and binding for all.

Abu-Sharif said 1,070 martyrs have fallen since the beginning of the intifadah, in addition to more than 5,000 abortions and nearly 50,000 people wounded, adding that the Israeli authorities are detaining 70,000 Palestinian citizens.

'Arafat Holds News Conference in Baghdad 11 Feb

NC1102211590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1857 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has addressed an appeal to the world public to take action to halt the massacres Israel is currently committing against the Palestinian people in Rafah in the Gaza sector which began last Thursday.

At a news conference in Baghdad today, President 'Arafat indicated that, by dawn today, 231 persons had been injured and four martyred in these massacres. He said: We have notified the United Nations, the U.S. Administration through the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, and the ambassadors of the permanent UN Security Council member states of this. We have also sent a memo to the UN Security Council president requesting action to halt these massacres.

He said that these massacres occurred as a result of the erroneous announcement that the driver of the bus carrying Israeli tourists in Egypt was of Palestinian origin and came from Rafah.

'Arafat said that if the bus incident is regarded as a terrorist act, what name can be given to what the Israeli Army is doing to the Palestinian people in Rafah? He said that this is organized state terrorism.

The Palestinian president noted that these massacres began when students of an elementary school in Rafah were fired upon, as a result of which 57 students and 10 other citizens were injured.

Referring to those who raised their voices in condemnation and to the writers who denounced the bus incident, 'Arafat said: We have not read or heard any of these writers or voices denounce the Rafah massacre. He wondered if the shedding of Palestinian blood is permissible and asked whether it is permissible for the Israeli Army to shed it using U.S. weapons and funds.

He said that the United States has not issued any statement about the Rafah massacre, although U.S. President George Bush offered condolences to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the victims of the bus incident.

He stated that the United States is playing the role of mediator between the Palestinians and the Israelis. A mediator, he said, must be neutral, especially with regard to a humanitarian stand designed to halt the current massacre in Rafah.

Responding to a question about Palestinian participation in the recent incident involving the bus carrying Israeli tourists in Egypt, the Palestinian president declared that these accusations are not supported by proof or evidence and that logic says it is not permissible to level accusations without evidence. He added that this incident was perpetrated by extremists, "whatever their form, color, or nationality."

Responding to a question by a MENA correspondent in Baghdad on the latest developments in the peace efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis, 'Arafat said that these are about to reach an impasse. He pointed out that this is a natural result of the collusion between the Israeli Government and some parties in the U.S. Administration which 'Arafat described as "Kissinger's pupils" to undermine the peace process.

'Arafat added: We have many other options that are wide open. In this respect he denounced the insistence on the emigration of Soviet Jews and the enormous U.S. assistance for this emigration.

'Arafat was asked whether he would summon the Palestine National Council and submit his resignation. He replied that he would submit his resignation to the council if an impasse were reached with regard to the Palestinian issue and all means had been exhausted.

He added that there are limits to patience. I am not prepared to take part in any deception of the Palestinian people, he asserted.

Responding to a question about the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories and the methods of suppression and massacre Israel is using, 'Arafat said that the world must realize that for every action there is a reaction, and no one can predict how matters will develop in relation to the Israeli insistence on this stand, which is backed by the United States.

'Arafat went on to say that the Soviet emigration is part of the agreement that was reached in Malta. He pointed in this connection to U.S. President George Bush's announcement two days ago that it is important that the Soviets open a direct air route between the Soviet Union and Israel. He added that 73 members of Congress supported this.

Responding to a question by the MENA correspondent on the often repeated assertion about the existence of collusion between the Soviet Union and the United States on the emigration, 'Arafat said that there is an agreement, but we do not know what it is. He stated that this agreement took place at the Malta summit and it is similar to the Yalta agreement. In this respect, 'Arafat urged the Arab nation to unify its ranks in order to confront this new challenge so that this nation may not pay an exorbitant price, as happened as a result of the Yalta agreement.

The MENA correspondent asked whether the PLO intends to call for an Arab summit to discuss the dimensions and seriousness of the Soviet emigration. The Palestinian president stated that when the subject of convening an Arab summit on Lebanon was raised, we presented an official memo to the Arab League about putting the Palestinian issue, including the intifadah and the emigration issue, on the summit agenda.

The president of the Palestinian state said that during the past few days he discussed with Soviet Envoy Gennadiy Tarasov the subject of the emigration of Soviet Jews. He added that the talks are continuing between the PLO and the Soviet Union in this regard. He asserted that the discussion of this subject will continue through the Arab foreign ministers delegation. The formation of this delegation was approved last week by the Arab eight-member committee for supporting the intifadah, he said.

'Arafat described his meeting with the committee as successful, positive, and fruitful, and said that committees have been formed at the foreign minister level to act in the international and Arab spheres.

Asked about repeated reports that Palestine will join the Arab Cooperation Council, 'Arafat said: We can join this council only after the establishment of the Palestinian state. However, he added, we regard ourselves as observer members in this council as well as in the other Arab councils.

Regarding his recent meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', 'Arafat said that the two meetings he held with al-Shar' were a good beginning in the rectification of the Palestinian-Syrian situation on the basis of the National Council resolutions.

Indicating that the United States has paid $165 million to Israel for the development of missiles, 'Arafat said that this sum is an additonal amount and is not part of the U.S. aid, which amounts to $3.2 billion. He added that the United States provided this sum in response to Iraq's success in launching the "al-Abid" missile system.

'Arafat mentioned that he has sent a cable of congratulations to African leader Nelson Mandela on the occasion of his release.

'Arafat Says Peace Initiatives 'About To Fail'

JN1102174690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat has announced that the peace initiatives are about to fail. He said the PLO might adopt other means to achieve its aims.

'Arafat Receives 'Urgent' Letter From Mubarak

JN0902201590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1940 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received an urgent letter from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

PLO Delegation To Visit Philippines 11 Feb

JN1002212490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] In response to an official invitation from the Philippine Foreign Ministry, an official PLO delegation will pay a visit to the Philippines from 11 to 15 February.

The Palestinian delegation will hold official talks with Philippine officials on the latest developments in the Middle East and the peace process in the region, including efforts to advance it.

'Arafat Appeals to World Peace Council

LD0802204590 Algiers APS in English 1124 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Feb (APS)—The head of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, caled on all peace loving forces in the world to increase pressure on the Israeli Government so that it accepts peace and recognizes the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

In a letter sent to the chairman and members of the World Peace Council, the Palestinian president said that the unconditional support of the American Administration to Israel has reinforced the arrogance of the Zionist entity and its refusal of peace initiatives.

Egypt

Government Ready To Attend Tripartite Meeting

NC0902154190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—MENA has learned that Egypt is still expressing its complete readiness to attend the tripartite meeting among the U.S. secretary of state and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel in preparation for holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

MENA has also learned that Egypt's stand has now crystallized and that it is ready to discuss all issues to be raised at the tripartite meeting and that consultations have been made with the Palestinian side on this stand.

High-level diplomatic sources stressed to MENA that Egypt is ready to attend the tripartite meeting at the time and venue which will be agreed on through diplomatic channels and that contacts and consultations are now under way on this.

Israeli radio reported this morning that the tripartite meeting will be held in Washington on 16 February.

Israel's Stand 'Main Obstacle' to Peace Efforts

NC0902150790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "The Peace Process in Light of Recent Events in the Region"]

[Text] The Middle East region is witnessing events which are bound to affect the peace process. The question has arisen of whether the endeavors being made to hold the tripartite meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel will be successful. What should be done to ensure that this meeting, if convened, achieves the desired result?

It is not easy to answer this question as new developments are daily taking place in the region and affecting these endeavors. The past few weeks saw a worrying increase in the number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel. Egyptian and Islamic political circles are disturbed less by the emigration of Jews in general to the land of Palestine than by the immigration of Soviet Jews in particular. This wave had been preceded by many waves. There are a number of reasons for this Arab and Islamic annoyance, the most of important of which is that the Palestinian issue—which is the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict—is going through a critical stage now. The Palestinians are preoccupied with the idea of an accord. An international conference is the only feasible way such an accord can be reached and the Palestinians have made all the concessions they can for this purpose. The aim was to make the U.S. review its stand toward the Palestinians. They have succeeded in this to a large extent and the best evidence of this is that Washington has embarked on a dialogue with the PLO to discuss the means of giving an impetus to the peace efforts. For its part, Egypt has exerted and continues to exert all possible efforts at all levels on the basis of its position as the biggest of the Arab brothers and the principles of its international relations. Egypt has had considerable success in this. Thus it has become impossible to ask the Arab side for more concessions.

Israel's stand remains the main obstacle to the peace efforts. We must here note Israel's desperate attempts to exploit the successive events in the region to bolster its rejection of peace with the Palestinians. Nothing shows this more clearly than some Israeli leaders' attitude toward the incident of the armed attack on the Israeli tourist bus near Ismailia. This incident should have moved Israel toward moderation because all its arbitrary policies of represssion and violence against the sons of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have only resulted in these counteractions which claimed the lives of innocent civilians who having nothing to do with Israel's illogical policy. Instead of realizing that this incident has exposed the tragedy in the region because of the absence of real peace, some of Israel's leaders, such as Ariel Sharon, have made statements that can only impede the peace process and that do not encourage the other parties to continue with their peaceful endeavors.

Egypt's stance, however, is clear. The Egyptian Government and people have denounced this criminal act and Egyptian security organs have made strenuous efforts to apprehend the culprits. These efforts led yesterday to the arrest of the second terrorist who took part in the attack. A news conference is expected to be held in the next few days to provide full details about the incident and those involved.

The aim behind the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel is known to all. It is to create a demographic imbalance in the occupied Arab territories, thus ensuring that Israel succeeds in eliminating a threat it will have to face in the future; that is, the increase in the Palestinian population. In addition, there are some countries that are behind this immigration and have even announced that they are ready to finance it. Such support is entirely unjustified. This, however, should not be a cause for despair. On the contrary, the Arabs and Muslims, not only in the Arab region or Muslim world but everywhere, must exert all kinds of pressure on the countries that are behind Israel's hostile and expansionist plans so as to make them review their stands, particularly as the Arabs and Muslims have enormous resources to ensure their success in this endeavor.

'Abd-al-Majid on Peace Efforts, Jewish Emigration

NC0702225690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2224 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that the peace efforts in the Middle East will continue despite the fact that some subjects require further discussion among the parties concerned. He noted that these subjects must not prevent the Palestinian-Israeli meeting which Egypt, the PLO, and the United States are seeking to convene.

In an interview with the BBC correspondent in Jeddah today, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the belief that there are serious efforts being made to overcome these obstacles. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts the United States and the Palestinian brothers are making in this regard. He also expressed the hope that Israel would move in the same direction.

Regarding the fighting in Lebanon, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid called on the warring parties to stop fighting. He affirmed Egypt's total support for the legitimate Lebanese Government.

Regarding Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized the need for a concerted Arab effort to stop this danger threatening peace. He noted the Egyptian efforts in this regard and said that President Husni Mubarak has sent messages to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry also sent a message to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, explaining the seriousness of this action and its effect on the situation in the region and the movement toward peace.

Use of Arms Against Jewish Immigrants Urged

JN0302195290 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 2 Feb 90 p 82

[Article by Mahmud al-Sa'dani]

[Text] Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and their deployment in the occupied land will not be halted by an U.S. protest with a view to lulling the Arabs. Nor would this purpose be served by the Gorbachev administration intervening to stop the direct Moscow-Tel Aviv flights and rerouting the Soviet Jews to, say, Belgium and the Netherlands, so they can go to a country of their own choice rather than be forced to head to Israel.

Only by using the one language that Israel understands—fire and iron—can the Arabs stem the flow of Soviet Jews to Palestine to colonize our land. I would call for introducing certain changes to the conduct of the intifadah. The stones no longer serve the purpose. Let bullets be our new weapon to cope with the swarm of locusts coming our way from the Soviet Union. The lives of a hundred Jews, even at the cost of a thousand Arab martyrs, seems to be the only answer. Only we have to pave the ground by a media drive so the world public opinion will get to know the dimensions of the tragedy awaiting our people in occupied Palestine. These would-be settlers are not going to live in barren land or desert. They are coming to settle land already inhabited by its indigenous population. They are no better than thieves who are coming to displace people from their homes. They are coming to snatch mouthfuls from the Palestinians who have suffered enough at the hands of the early gangs that arrived by sea from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. We should not allow this to happen; it is a thousand times better to die in refugee camps in the scorching desert sun. No solution seems to be in sight other than bloodshed on both sides, the world having become fed up with slogans and denunciations and condemnations. If Israel should persist, the Palestinians have no choice but to use fire and iron against the aliens who are coming to steal their land as the second millenium draws to a close.

If it should be argued that the result could prove a massacre reminiscent of the butchery inflicted on the Red Indians, I would ask if we have any other choice. Besides, the Red Indians who perished in battle against whites were luckier than those who survived. Incidentally, now it will not be possible to perpetrate an outrage the scale of the crime committed by the whites against the Red Indians. Neither the conditions nor the time are right. It would be enough if a hundred immigrants and a thousand Palestinians were killed for the world to sit up and take notice. It would be an adventure that might succeed and might fail, and a gamble that we could win or lose. To the the Palestinian people I have this to say: Aside from your torment and humiliation on your own soil, you no longer have anything to lose. It is either you or these new arrivals.

Attack on Presidential Palace in Cairo Aborted

Interior Ministry Statement

NC0902204690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2043 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 FEB (MENA)—The Interior Ministry has issued the following statement:

At 1920 tonight, 9 February, a young man driving a Fiat-131 stormed the guards' gate of the al-'Urubah Palace on al-Sayyid al-Mirghani St in Heliopolis. The front of his car collided with the guards' gate. He went down holding a pistol and fired at the guards, wounding two in the legs and feet. The guards were thus compelled to deal with him. He was shot dead at once.

The guards said that the young man was in an abnormal state and was imbalanced as he shot at the soldiers.

Traffic police in the area said that they had noticed the car in question minutes before the incident.

The young man in question was carrying an identity card in the name of Adham Suhayb Muhammad Hafiz. He was born in 1973. He had in his possession a Smith pistol licensed in his father's name. The prosecutor's office is in charge of the investigation.

The young man in question resided at 10 'Abd-al-Salam 'Ashmawi St in Heliopolis. In a conversation with his mother, she said that his father had left because of family disputes and was threatening that he would do something terrible unless his family met his demands.

Mubarak Reacts

NC0902212590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2111 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 9 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has expressed pain, sadness, and astonishment at the incident which took place tonight at the al-'Urubah Palace.

Upon learning of the incident, the president said he was particularly sorry that a young man from a family well established in the law profession should undertake such an act.

Condoles Attacker's Family

NC1002112790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 10 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak made a telephone call from Aswan this morning to Counselor Suhayb Muhammad Hafiz, the father of the student Adham who was killed yesterday during an attempt to storm the gates of al-'Urubah Palace. The president offered his condolences to the student's father and family.

Continued Reportage on Israeli Bus Incident

Information Obtained

NC1002173590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—A responsible security source has affirmed that the security departments have obtained important information about the perpetrators of the attack on the Israeli tourist bus, which took place on the Cairo-Ismailia road on Sunday, and their accessories. The source said that further details and particulars of the attack are expected to be announced shortly.

MENA has learned that the final report on the incident prepared by the Interior Ministry criminal laboratory includes all details, including particulars of the weapons used and the grenades hurled on the bus. These details were gleaned after several examinations by experts from the criminal investigation department of the bus and the Peugeot car used in the attack. Eyewitnesses stated that the Peugeot followed the bus from Rafah to the scene of the attack. The report also includes all fingerprints removed from the bus and the car, which are being compared to those of the detained suspects.

Prosecutor Views Videotape

NC1002215790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—The supreme state security prosecutor today continued his investigation of the attack on a number of Israeli tourists. The prosecutor viewed a videotape of the incident. An interpreter translated the Hebrew in which the tape was recorded. The videotape shows some views of scenery and shots of foreign tourists on a beach. It also shows the journey of the bus on the Ismailia-Cairo road. A voice is then heard speaking emotionally and in a non-Egyptian dialect and asking the Egyptians inside the bus to get off. The voice is also heard uttering some curses against the Egyptians, and the owner of the voice then states that he will attack the Israelis inside the bus.

The prosecutor also listened to the statement of tourist police officer Mahmud Shihatah, who said that the perpetrators of the incidents were non-Egyptians and that the attack was preplanned.

The prosecutor also decided to make use of the report of the criminal laboratory department, which examined the bus externally and internally and took fingerprints from it. He also asked for a report, as soon as possible, from the forensic expert who examined the clothes, as well as the bullets and pieces of shrapnel removed from the bodies of the victims.

The prosecutor will continue his investigation in the next few days. He will hear the statements of police officers who reported the incident and provided information about the Peugeot used by the culprits. He will also hear the statement of tourist guide Wadi' Suryal, who is receiving treatment at Ismailia Hospital.

Minister Says Tourism Unaffected

NC1102213290 Cairo MENA in English 2110 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb 11 (MENA)—Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan stressed today that the attack on a tourist bus that was carrying Israeli tourists had not affected tourist activities in Egypt. He said before leaving Cairo for Aswan today that no tourist groups have canceled reservations in Egypt and that planes are almost fully booked.

Sultan, who is participating in celebrations marking the revival of the Alexandria library, said the Israeli tourist bus incident was accidental, had no political indications, and could happen in any part of the world.

U.S., Israel, Egypt Blamed

JN0902160690 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 7 Feb 90 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "Our Attitude Toward the Bus Incident"]

[Text] We do not have to emphasize our firm rejection of individual violence, particularly when it is directed against defenseless civilians. We also believe that the Egyptians are above all racist feelings that antagonize Jews only because they are Jews. We are for peace, but a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, headed by their right to establish their state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. In the light of these three principles, we can define our stand toward the Ismailia incident, in which a number of Israelis fell victim.

Who is really responsible for the blood of the killed or wounded victims? Responsibility falls specifically on the Israeli Government, which rejected the hand extended by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat seeking a just and honorable peace. This government continues to reject any peaceful and just settlement of the Palestine question, and continues to stick to outdated ideas and provocative stands disavowing the rights of those who have a legal claim to the country. It is always maneuvering and rejecting any step conducive to a just peace. Moreover, it is daily committing savage crimes against the heroic Palestinian people's intifadah. It considers killing Palestinians justified and legitimate, and calls on the civilian settlers to participate in it alongside the occupation army troops.

Responsibility is also borne by those U.S. officials who played and continue to play the role of the protector, encourager, and supporter of the Israeli expansionist policy. Those officials have recently escalated their hostility to the Arabs by closing their doors to Soviet emigrants in a bid to make them go to the occupied Arab territories, thus creating a new obstacle toward any peaceful settlement.

Finally, responsibility is also held by the Egyptian Government, which is going too far in its normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy without heeding the tense feelings resulting from Israel's inhuman practices against the intifadah masses and Israel's rejection of just peace.

All these are responsible for the blood of the victims and any blood that is spilled in the future. We believe that Shamir's provocative and expansionist policy, which uses fascist methods against the Palestinian Arab people, would only generate bitter feelings in the Arab world and lead to results similar to those witnessed on the Ismailia highway.

There is no way out except through logic, practical assessment of matters, respect for Palestinian human rights, and recognition of the Palestinian's legitimate right to establish his state on his soil. There is no way out except by recognizing the plain fact which is ignored only by the foolish or tendentious ones. It is the fact that the Palestinian people have a recognized leadership represented by the PLO, their sole legitimate leadership, and that negotiations should be held with it in order to reach a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution to the Palestine question.

Palestinian Envoy Fingers Israel

NC1002123690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that the PLO and the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo are cooperating with the Egyptian security apparatus. They are giving any information or clues which may unravel the case of the armed attack against the Israeli tourist bus along the Cairo-Ismailia desert road last Sunday [4 February].

The Palestinian official does not rule out Israel's responsibility for that attack aimed at obstructing the Middle East peace march. He accused Israeli circles of facilitating the supply of explosives and securing their transport to the Egyptian territories so non-Egyptians could carry out the operation. In saying this, he confirmed reports published today that were attributed to a responsible source in the Egyptian Interior Ministry. According to the source, the explosives used in the operation were like a type of explosive made in America. Israel is the only Middle Eastern country able to obtain this explosive.

Sa'id Kamal expects non-Israelis to carry out other Israeli operations to abort the peace process and to implement the Israeli scheme aimed at building Greater Israel.

Paper Examines Motives

PM0902145490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 90 p13

[Yusuf Idris article: "Who Is The Culprit, and Who Stands to Benefit?"]

[Text] A few hours ago I finished reading what the Egyptian, Arab, and foreign press and radio have been saying over the past few days about the strange terrorist incident of the bus carrying Israeli tourists to Cairo on the Ismailia road. After reading all that and listening to news bulletins I sat down to think very deeply about the incident, its circumstances, and how it was carried out.

I considered all possibilities, and I was at a loss. I said to myself: I will follow the approach used by investigators of major crimes to find a clue that will lead me to the real unknown culprit. I used the criminal investigation approach to seek a motive and by so doing to discover one or two people with the strongest motives to commit the crime.

However, this is no an ordinary crime. It is a political terrorist operation very carefully planned for months and well executed by someone with very clever criminal mind. So, instead of looking for a motive, I will ask: Who stands to benefit most from the incident? That party must be the culprit.

Do president 'Arafat and the PLO benefit from it? Certainly not, because they are the prime victims of the incident, which is to their detriment.

Could it be some of the parties that oppose 'Arafat and the peace process, which they call a capitulation process, that benefit from it, insofar as such an operation carried out by Palestinians against Israelis on Egyptian territory would definitely torpedo the imminent Palestinian-Israeli-Egyptian negotiations with U.S. participation. On the surface, that deduction appears to be almost probable.

Deep thought, however, reveals the now clear fact that the culprits obtained their information from inside Israel or even from inside the Israel intelligence service itself and may have also infiltrated the tourist companies and the police organ entrusted with the task of protecting busloads of Israeli tourists. The tourist bus was supposed to have been preceded by a rescue car and followed by a heavily armed guard vehicle, but that did not happen in this particular case.

Furthermore, after the operation one doubts very much whether it could be used as an excuse for blocking the expected tripartite meeting, because the meeting is supposed to be the U.S. political solution, and a political solution could only be prevented by a serious political event—not by a passing incident.

Does Egypt stand to benefit from the crime?

I will not bother to answer this question, because it is meaningless insofar as, since the act was against Yasir 'Arafat, it was also against Egypt and its territory. I do not believe that Russia, the United States, or any other country benefited from the incident. That ultimately leaves just one state which in my opinion is the prime beneficiary of the killing of Israelis on Egyptian territory. Nazi documents prove that some of those who volunteered to spy on, arrest, and execute Jews in Germany were themselves Jews who advocated the philosophy of sacrificing five or 10 Jews to save 100,000. This time the aim is to save their Greater Israel.

True, 11 Jews were killed and others were wounded, but how will Israel benefit from the incident? It certainly will benefit, and the coming few days will show how. Just wait with me. This incident, planned with fearsome Mosad meticulousness, is only the first step in a big, big plan. Time will show that I, and some of those who think as I do, are right.

Mubarak Cables Congratulations to Mandela

NC1002185590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1713 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sent a congratulatory cable to African struggler Nelson Mandela on the occasion of the decision to release him tomorrow. The text is as follows:

Brother struggler Nelson Mandela: I am happy to send you heartfelt congratulations now that your release has been decided upon. This is considered a triumph for human rights everywhere. I would like to assure you that the Egyptian people stand by the fraternal South African people and express their full solidarity and total support for you in your efforts to fly the flag of freedom and democracy and achieve your hopes for a unified African future.

The victory you have scored is a result of the sacrifices of our great people in South Africa, who derived the highest values of patriotism and sacrifice from your lofty soul and legendary steadfastness. We consider this success as only the beginning of the total liberation process for our brothers in South Africa. Egypt, along with all African countries and all free men in the world, will continue its firm and strong support for your struggle until the rights of the fraternal people in South Africa to salvation from racist domination and the enjoyment of freedom and human dignity are recognized.

[Signed] Your brother, Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Mubarak Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi 9 Feb

NC0902210190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1953 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 9 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight telephoned Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, from Aswan. The two leaders discussed matters of common interest to both countries.

Finnish Defense Minister Departs

NC1002171190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Finnish Defense Minister Ole Norrback and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this afternoon after a three-day visit. [passage omitted]

Zambian Foreign Minister Arrives

NC1102054690 Cairo MENA in English 2320 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb 10 (MENA)—Zambian Foreign Minister Luke Mwananshiku arrived here tonight on an official visit to Egypt during which he will take part in the meetings of the coordination committee for the liberation of Africa, due to start on Monday.

President Husni Mubarak will address the committee and his message to Africa will be delivered on his behalf by Premier Dr 'Atif Sidqi in the inauguration of the committee's meetings, chaired by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

On hand at the airport were Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry Nihad 'Asqalani, Ambasador 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr and the Zambian ambassador to Egypt.

Al-Baz in Moscow To Prepare for Mubarak Visit

NC1102155390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1454 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for Moscow this afternoon on a visit to the Soviet Union expected to last several days. Before his departure, al-Baz said that he will hold talks with senior Soviet officials to prepare for President Mubarak's trip to Moscow in March and discuss the agenda for his talks with Soviet officials during his visit.

Assembly Member Brandishes Knife, Resigns

NC1002165890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—An unprecedented incident occurred during a meeting of the People's Assembly today. A member produced a large knife from among the papers in front of him. In an extremely frenzied manner, he demanded that manifestations of corruption be combated and, before the astonished members, he addressed himself to the president of the republic, appealing to him to apply the law on the illegal accumulation of wealth. He then announced his resignation from the People's Assembly. The member concerned was Ahmad Shatih, a National Democratic Party [NDP] representative for Damietta Governorate. He did not respond to People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub's appeals to him to calm down and stop brandishing the knife, but rushed out of the meeting.

Dr al-Mahjub announced that Shatih's utterances will be struck from the People's Assembly's minutes, because he did not address his speech in the manner specified by the regulations. According to the regulations, "a member may only address his remarks to the People's Assembly speaker or to the People's Assembly," and no one else.

Kamal al-Shadhili, representative of the NDP parliamentary committee and the NDP's secretary for organization, commenting on the incident said: We are all against corruption anywhere. A member should submit facts or documents relating to corruption to the speaker or the NDP. He added: Any member has a right to express his views. He denied that the NDP would punish the member, noting that the way in which he announced his resignation was insufficent and invalid, because there are certain procedures for resignation. He said that he believes that the member was in an emotional frame of mind when he spoke.

*Muslim Brotherhood Plans To Form Political Party

45000077 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 30 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] For the first time, the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] in Egypt is announcing its intention to found a new political party comprising MB members and supporters. This would be in exchange for their current place within the Socialist Labor Party, and before that, within the opposition New Wafd Party. The MB's announcement came from Judge Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, member of the MB's guidance office, speaking for the party's 36 parliamentary deputies during his reply and commentary on the government program delivered by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi at the opening of the current parliamentary session.

In his comments, Hudaybi revealed a secret decision made by the MB to begin founding this party and said that he had been authorized to announce this in parliament, except that the issuance of the decision to dismiss Interior Minister Zaki Badr and to appoint the new minister, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, had forced the MB to postpone this announcement so that it would not be accused of opportunism. Perhaps the MB also feared clashes with the new minister, even though the opposition, including the MB, had welcomed his appointment.

A government official who has a ministerial position, is a leading member of the ruling National Democratic Party, and is a member of the political parties committee, commented that the MB cannot make this announcement, and if it does, it subjects itself to the penalties of the parties law, including imprisonment for anyone who founds a party without obtaining authorization.

University Students Demonstrate Against Israel

JN1202145390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Feb 90 p 1

[By Jihad 'Abd-al-Mun'im and Zaki al-Sa'dani]

[Text] Cairo University students yesterday demonstrated against the Soviet Jewish immigration and settlement in the occupied Arab territories. The students chanted anti-Israel slogans and called for abrogating the Camp David accords and declaring war on Israel. Central Security troops, karate troops, and the Special Forces blocked the Cairo University gates to prevent students from going to the streets.

Thousands of Cairo University students had earlier organized a large conference to denounce the slackness in confronting the Zionist scheme in the occupied Arab territories.

The students called for liberties, abolishing the emergency laws, abrogating the Camp David accords, and stopping arrangements for the tripartite meeting. They also called for expelling the ambassadors of Israel, the United States, and the Soviet Union from Egypt and for calling the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv immediately.

The students also decided to send cables of protest to the Foreign Ministry and to the U.S. and USSR Embassies.

They also called for enlisting people for jihad against Jews in Palestine and for contributing to support the Palestinian intifadah.

Security Forces Detain 7 'Extremists'

NC1102204690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2012 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—The security forces today detained seven of the extremists who recently attacked Colonel Rif'at al-Shafi', deputy commander of the 'Ayn Shams police post, in a street off Ahmad (?Ismat) Street in the 'Ayn Shams area, as he was on his way to work. The seven radicals were detained after intensive efforts by criminal investigation personnel [words indistinct] following the incident. The efforts resulted in the location of their places of residence.

When they were detained, the defendants admitted to having carried out the attack in order to avenge the killing last month of their leader Ahmad Kamil, during a police attack on one of the extremists' strongholds in the 'Ayn Shams area. The prosecution office has begun interrogating the defendants on a charge of attacking the police officer and his driver, who were injured in the assault.

NPUG Central Committee Statement

JN0202161990 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 31 Jan 90 p 7

[Text] The National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Central Committee's 19th session ended its proceedings last Friday after two days of discussing political and organizational reports. In addition, the Committee heard the important speech delivered by Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, the NPUG secretary general. The Central Committee decided to postpone the third general conference and agreed on December 1990 as the deadline for this purpose. The Central Committee asserted that preparations for the general conference should be a struggling and political effort with the involvement of the masses. These preparations, moreover, should aim to rebuild the NPUG, and should not only be a mere election process. The Central Committee tasked the General Secretariat with following up the preparations for the general conference in accordance with the proposed timetable and the approved schedule. The Central Committee also tasked the General Secretariat with studying the negative phenomena hampering party work and limiting its mass influence. In conclusion, the Central Committee issued the following political statement:

In its 19th session, the Central Committee discussed the political report submitted by the General Secretariat, which highlighted the crisis in our country amid the turbulent developments taking place in our world, especially in the socialist countries, and their inevitable repercussions. The Central Committee also discussed the speech delivered by the secretary general at the opening session.

The Central Committee approved this report and decided to issue it after introducing the necessary amendments by the General Secretariat. Moreover, the Central Committee decided to consider the secretary general's speech one of the documents of this meeting.

The discussions emphasized the growing tendency toward international detente, for tension has begun to ease on the international level with the retreat of the cold war and the progress toward the establishment of a world where peace is expected to prevail. However, all this took place amid unyielding resistance launched by hostile circles within the framework of international monopolies, especially the monopoly of arms production, which is still dominated by decisionmakers in capitalist countries.

The discussions also displayed an eagerness to underline the fact that capitalism and imperialism have abandoned neither their aggressive and opportunistic nature nor their desire for international preponderance.

On the one hand, capitalist countries are still suffering from deep crises. The economic crisis has been exacerbated and extended by virtue of its slow progress and mass unemployment.

On the other hand, capitalist countries are still exploiting and plundering Third World countries, whose crises are worsening to the extent that it has become incumbent on them to engage in a fierce fight for the sake of their fateful causes, especially for building a new international economic system.

In spite of all this, countries affiliated with the capitalist camp have managed to achieve some success, which enabled them to cloak the manifestations of the crisis and overcome it, even if this is done temporarily.

As for the socialist countries in Europe, they are facing a severe crisis and sweeping changes, including calls for democracy and attempts to restore the real human face of socialism.

Despite the violent struggle going on in these countries, it is certain that the schemes and forces that seek to tear down socialist countries in general, and the Soviet Union in particular, will not find the task an easy one, especially if we take into consideration the weight and importance of the sector of the state in the Soviet economy and its vitality for the community.

These forces are facing a strong, highly cultured and conscious working class; a huge and comprehensive socialist edifice; and individuals characterized by a high degree of culture and possessing a drive toward civilization.

Those who defend socialism are seeking to correct its path, restore its democratic dimension, establish political pluralism and democratic liberties, and secure man's fundamental rights. Those people will never allow the liquidation of socialism. All this means that socialism has its active forces which defend and revitalize it in an ever-changing world.

The lessons of the socialist world make us, the sons of the NPUG, take real pride in the historic initiative, embodied in the NPUG's establishment, by virtue of the unprecedented formula the NPUG has devised for grouping all the factions of the left.

Lessons from the experience of the socialist world also make us proud of the NPUG's unshakable belief in political diversity, of its upholding of democracy as the path conducive to socialism, of its espousal of the pan-Arab cause, of its positive view of the role of religion in the advancement of society, and of its rejection of any preconceived type or mode of socialism out of a belief that the masses will find in due course the mode of socialism that will suit them best. The NPUG's pursuit of its policy has been guided by democratic principles that are enforced within the party's internal structures. We must spare no efforts and do our best to preserve, safeguard, bolster, and enhance this historic initiative so that it may remain with us and prosper.

The deliberations held by the NPUG Central Committee also tackled the most important developments that have taken place in our Arab world, such as the efforts that culminated in the formation of regional groupings. The NPUG Central Committee believes that these groupings must espouse clear objectives as regards the cultivation of an independent and indigenous ideological orientation designed to rid the Arabs of the current tutelage. The attainment of such an objective is impossible without the support of a broad-based mass movement which must seek to secure genuine democratic freedoms for the masses and ensure these masses a fair share of their wealth and resources. Moreover, the attainment of this objective requires the waging of a protracted struggle.

The deliberations also dealt with the expansion of democratic freedoms, the heightening of the arms race in the region, and the continuation of the Palestinian intifadah.

The NPUG Central Committee views the trend toward democratization and a multiparty system as a positive phenomenon, regardless of the shortcomings of this phenomenon and the restrictions imposed on it. National, progressive, and democratic forces can change this trend to a real democracy. The Central Committee members affirmed the Arab states' right to procure arms in their confrontation of Israel, which has always been the first party to initiate hostilities, particularly considering that Israel is armed to the teeth with U.S. weapons, not to mention the fact that it possesses nuclear arms. The Palestinian intifadah figured highly in the deliberations of the Central Committee members, who noted that the Arab governments have failed to implement their unanimous resolutions on supporting the intifadah. They called for making Arab political moves involving Arab governments and peoples. They also called for using all effective Arab weapons in the political game to bring pressure to bear on the United States and Israel and not on the PLO. They also called for extending [to the PLO] the approved Arab financial aid, as well as the donations made by the Palestinians working in Arab states.

On the Egyptian level, the NPUG Central Committee members urged the people to put pressure on the Egyptian Government to make it support the intifadah rather than play the role of a mediator. There are numerous political and economic weapons which the government can use to put pressure on Israel. Besides, there are numerous inventive ways that can be used to support the intifadah through donations from the people or the government.

The Central Committee members dwelled on the news reports pertaining to the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and to Israel's recent use of the issue as an excuse to justify a future annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is true that democratic changes in the USSR prompted it to grant its citizens the right to emigrate. However, the overwhelming majority of the Soviet Jewish emigrants would have opted to go to the United States rather than Israel had it not been for the recent change in U.S. policy as regards Soviet Jewish immigration. Hence, the end result of this U.S. policy change is that these emigrants are heading for Israel. The responsibility in this regard is to be shouldered by the United States, considering that it is the party that has always been financing the absorption of new immigrants. This issue must be made clear to the Egyptian public. We urge the USSR to take into account Shamir's statements in which he affirmed that the influx of new immigrants would necessarily lead to the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We urge the USSR to suspend emigration waves until a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestine question has been attained. Furthermore, we urge the Egyptian Government to ask the United States to revoke all the constraints that it has imposed on Soviet Jewish immigration. The Arab governments can exert similar pressures in this regard.

The Central Committee considered the continuation of the no-peace, no-war situation between Iraq and Iran and welcomed the Soviet peace initiative in this regard. It also welcomed all the initiatives which seek to bring about stability in the region, foremost among which is the recent Iraqi initiative. The Central Committee also discussed the problem of the Euphrates waters and viewed this problem as one that poses dangers to development projects in both Iraq and Syria. The Central Committee urges Arab solidarity and unity in the face of this danger.

Likewise, the Central Committee discussed the situation in Lebanon and underscored the constant support for the

Arab summit resolutions and the al-Ta'if conference within the framework of the Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis, the Lebanese people's right to self-determination, and the Lebanese people's right to choose their political future within the context of a democratic and unified Arab Lebanon free of sectarianism and armed militias. The committee also called for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces and sides and pooling all capabilities and efforts so as to back national resistence and liberate occupied southern Lebanon.

The Central Committee members discussed in detail the domestic developments, particularly the agreement with the IMF and the World Bank—an agreement which threatens with liquidation all of the July revolution achievements and all the gains this revolution realized for the vast majority of the Egyptian people. The working people and even the middle class groups will bear the burden of that agreement in terms of further deterioration of living standards, unemployment, and even further suppression of freedoms. Nevertheless, the incidents at the Iron and Steel Complex last fall and the downfall of the former interior minister indicate that the realization of progress on the way toward democracy is possible provided that all democratic forces rally around specific and explicit objectives which the masses advocate. Undoubtedly, the abrogation of the emergency laws comes at the top of these objectives together with issuing a new electoral law in order to organize political rights. This law should be drafted with the participation of all political parties and forces in Egypt.

The committee called for an end to all forms of violation of human rights, the immediate release of all detainees, and the need for the president of the Republic to use his constitutional prerogatives to repeal the verdicts issued by the state security courts concerning free expression of opinion and all political lawsuits, the release of those convicted in these cases, and a halt to similar trials and to the trial of the defendants in the Egypt Revolution case.

Any democratic gain will provide broader opportunities for the people's struggle for the sake of their demands. In the economic and social spheres, the deliberations of the Central Committee members highlighted the following tasks as the most important ones:

1. Restoring to the public sector its leading role, confronting any attempt to liquidate it, working to develop it and rectify its conditions by applying genuine democracy to it by expanding the full participation of those managing it.

2. Establishing a program for producing wheat and cereals in Egypt to meet 70 percent of our demands within a period of 3 years and drawing up a program for agricultural production on the basis of joint cooperation among Egypt, Sudan, and Libya.

3. Developing agriculture comprehensively, reconsidering agricultural policies so as to tackle the dangers agriculture is facing, foremost of which is the problem of the Nile waters, and reviving the democratic cooperative movement in rural areas.

4. Exploiting as much as possible all types of investments on the national level with all means to solve the problem of unemployment and protect our youth from dissolution.

5. Ensuring that the state carry out its duty in order to secure the basic commodities for the people at reasonable prices that are within the reach of their income and to implement a policy to tie wages to prices and production.

We are facing a world that is changing rapidly and becoming increasingly sensitive to the demands of the millions of people so as to protect humanity against annihilation and promote the ideals of social justice, democratic freedoms, and human rights. We should understand that we, as leftist party, are expected, before others, to prepare for building the Egypt of tomorrow. That requires first and foremost the renovation of the revolutionary freedom in our country—an operation that begins with each revolutionary faction renovating itself, beginning with the NPUG, in order to confront the tasks of tomorrow. These tasks will necessarily raise the issue of renovating Egypt within the framework of a pan-Arab project that is intended to renovate the Arab homeland on the basis of a deep study of the Egyptian society, invoking our cultural heritage, in any solutions we provide for Egypt's problems. That is the major issue which our forthcoming conference must confront.

Morocco

Mexican Foreign Secretary Solana Arrives 8 Feb

FL0902040290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2325 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Rabat, 8 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales arrived today in Morocco, where he will meet with King Hassan II and open the Mexican Embassy in this capital.

The Mexican foreign secretary said his two-day visit to Morocco is aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries.

Solana is scheduled to meet tomorrow with King Hassan II as part of his official tour to this country. He will also hold talks with his Moroccan counterpart, Abdellatif Filali, and Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada.

The Mexican foreign secretary will inaugurate the Mexican Embassy in Morocco after the two countries, which have maintained diplomatic relations since 1962, decided in June to exchange ambassadors in their respective capitals.

Morocco will be the last country the Mexican foreign secretary will visit during his official trip, which included the GDR and France.

In Paris, Solana presided over, together with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, the joint French-Mexican commission, which agreed to boost bilateral cooperation and reactivate trade between the two countries. At the end of the bilateral commission's activities, which lasted two days, the foreign ministers signed agreements on education, technology, and economy.

Solano To Inaugurate Embassy

LD0902065990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpts] This evening Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, met at the ministry with Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solana. The meeting, which took place in the presence of the close aides to the two ministers and the ambassadors of the two countries in Rabat and Mexico, dealt with bilateral relations, aspects of cooperation in various fields and ways of developing them, and issues of common concern. They also concerned relations among Third World countries and current international issues.

The Mexican foreign minister arrived this afternoon in Rabat on a three-day official visit to Morocco at the invitation of his Moroccan counterpart. [passage omitted]

At the VIP lounge, Fernando Solana made a statement in which he pointed out that his visit is aimed at consolidating bilateral relations between Morocco and Mexico. He indicated these relations are very important to Mexican foreign policy. He said he will inaugurate his country's embassy in Rabat. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Visits Juba; 'Confident' of Situation

EA1102080990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpts] At 1030 this morning, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander in chief of the people's Armed Forces, paid a visit to the town of Juba. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir acquainted himself with and felt confident in the security situation generally, and Juba in particular. His excellency was enlightened on the activity of the Equatoria Military Zone Operations Room. He inspected the activities of our gallant forces in the area and their great efforts in deterring the rebel forces. He commended the active role of the Armed Forces in providing security to the Sudanese people.

Addresses Residents

EA1102124490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Speech by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir to the people of Juba on 10 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brother Staff Major General Allison Manani Magaya, governor of Equatoria Region, brother citizen Barnaba, chairman of the Salvation (?People's Committee), brother citizens, inhabitants of Juba town, greetings to you all. In fact, I am very happy today to be able to come and see Juba, so as to see the citizens of Juba, to listen to the problems of Juba, to (?review) the problems that Juba has lived through, and to find a solution to Juba problems. [applause]

I am very happy today to come and see the citizens—the citizens who [word indistinct] standing with all their bravery to defend their town, defend their country against the rebellion and destruction. Allow me first to thank you for the warm reception, the welcome, and [words indistinct] there was no specified time people in Juba were not aware, but despite this, the people came, and now you are standing in the rain to hear the word of the revolution [applause]. The rainy season is luck.

[Words indistinct] when the revolution was established, it was basically established for peace. Its first objective was peace. The first work we undertook was the (?establishment) of peace. That is why the first work we undertook was the national dialogue conference for peace. We included in it a lot of people—people from the political leadership of all areas, from the north, the south, and the areas in the east and west. They came, sat down, and put forward solutions to the problem of the war and how people could achieve peace. We endeavored to ensure that peace was achieved.

Delegations went to the African countries, European countries, so that people would talk to the rebel movement, so that people would be convinced that (?we were for) peace. We started negotiations and finished them, but the rebels do not want peace. They said they wanted to liberate Sudan. I do not know from whom they are liberating Sudan. Liberating Sudan from the Sudanese citizens? They only want destruction. The rebels have destroyed the entire country. They destroyed Bahr al-Ghazal, Upper Nile, and now they have come to destroy Equatoria.

[Words indistinct] made in Juba was that people leave Juba so that they destroy it. They wanted people to go to the bush [words indistinct] so that relief organizations stopped bringing in relief, so that people would die inside Juba. That was the objective of the movement, aimed at killing people through hunger. I request you and the Armed Forces to defend Equatoria, defend Juba, and that you form popular defense forces, so that the Equatoria citizens defend their country against the destruction. We shall, God willing, continue to transport the relief and supplies for the citizens. [applause] We have formed a Salvation People's Committee to help in the administration of the [words indistinct].

On behalf of [words indistinct] I thank you [word indistinct] that we in the Salvation Revolution [words indistinct] shall strengthen the Armed Forces to help defend your country, defend Equatoria, defend Juba, and God willing, we shall end the rebellion. If the rebellion wants peace, we are ready for peace and prepared for peace, but if they do not want peace, we, God willing, are prepared for war. Goodbye. God is great, and glory to Sudan! [applause]

Former Ministers, Political Detainees Released

EA1102071790 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum 10 February (SUNA)—Leader of the dissolved Sudanese Communist Party Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqd; former Finance Minister Dr. Bashir 'Umar; and former Industry Minister 'Abd al-Rasul al-Nur were all released Friday [9 February]. Thirty-three other political detainees were also released along with the above mentioned.

The release of the said detainees comes in fulfilment of the National Salvation Revolution pledge that it does not seek to incriminate anybody or put him under arrest for a long period without justifiable reasons just as political and financial corruption and within the revolution efforts for unifying the internal front. [sentence as received]

The leader of the dissolved Sudanese Communist Party was put under house arrest immediately after his release.

Troops Kill 110 'Rebel Outlaws' in Upper Nile

EA1002221290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1953 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] We have just received this: A military source has announced that the advancing forces in the Upper Nile Region clashed with an ambush set by the rebel outlaws near the area of (Aya). A fierce battle took place in which the rebels suffered 110 dead, including two officers.

Our forces succeeded in destroying the ambush completely and seized a converted T-55 tank and its ammunition together with a barlev truck loaded with ammunition for artillery and launchers, as well as quantities of fuel and Kalashnikov ammunition.

The Armed Forces lost three martyrs.

Government Hails Release of Nelson Mandela

EA1102212590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1724 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Khartozm, 11 Feb (SUNA)—Expressed pleasure over the release of African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, reiterating that the African continent will no longer be defeated or suppressed.

A statement issued today by the Revolution Command Council (RRC) on the occasion of Mandela's release, affirmed Sudan's continuous support to the people of South Africa in their struggle for gaining freedom and equality.

The statement hailed all those who contributed to the release of the antiapartheid activist Mandela.

The release of Mandela will be an impetus for the struggle for undermining the racial discrimination policies being applied in South Africa, the statement concluded.

Kuwait

Media Comment on Israeli Bus Incident in Egypt

U.S. Meeting Decision Viewed

JN0902161790 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 20

["Horizons" column by Firas al-Hamadani: "The Meaning of the Bus Incident"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department has announced the planned tripartite meeting of the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers in Washington next week will not be conducted on schedule, and may not meet in the foreseeable future.

The decision cancelled the meeting between Baker, 'Abd-al-Majid, and Arens after the bus incident in which nine Israelis and two Egyptians were killed on the highway between Ismailia and Cairo. The bus was carrying the so-called Israeli tourists who came from occupied Palestine to visit Egypt!

Immediately after the bus incident, the U.S. State Department announced—according to Israeli circles—that the incident was designed to hamper peace efforts in which Egypt is participating to prepare for negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis!

Regardless of the interpretations by Washington or Tel Aviv of an exciting, dramatic incident in which a number of Israelis were killed in Egypt after they infiltrated into it under the cover of tourism, the bus incident that occurred between Ismailia and Cairo at sunset on 4 February 1990 is another cogent argument that the Egyptian people categorically reject being isolated from their Arab nation's struggle, and that they strongly insist on playing a leading role in defending Arabs rights and interests and rejecting any kind of surrender to plots to single out Egypt and then deal with each of the Arab countries separately, so no banner other than the banner of the enemies of Arabism and Islam is raised over the Arab land.

It is surprising Washington and Tel Aviv and the Zionist and U.S. mass media, which were shocked by the bus incident and whose ability to think, interpret, and analyze was paralyzed, have forgotten the incident is a new warning to the Americans and Zionists within the context of the repeated warnings epitomized by heroic martyr Sulayman Khatir, who opened fire with his machine gun on the Zionists who insolently crossed the borders to desecrate Egypt's Sinai in 1982, and also by that heroic pursuit by the men and the free people of Egypt's revolution against the enemy's spies, who used their diplomatic immunity as a cover and who entered Egypt only to destroy its builders and spread evil in Egypt's land and society.

As a result of the bus incident, Washington cancelled the scheduled meeting of the three ministers. By this behavior, Washington proves once again its positions are determined by Israel. It is well known old terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir never has sought any contacts that could lead to direct negotiations between the PLO and the Zionist entity.

The U.S. Administration also has no desire to conduct such negotiations. The bus incident, therefore, provides an excuse for Washington and Tel Aviv to continue their errors, from which they can be deterred only through Arab steadfastness against the plots and intrigues, as well as Arab rejection of any capitulation they want to impose on our Arab nation, which is called to accept and confront the challenge without any restrictions. But thus yet met, that God might accomplish a matter already enacted. [Koranic verse]

Shamir To Exploit Attack

JN0902153590 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 19

["An Opinion on Events" column by Fawzat 'Alam-al-Din: "The Bus and the Peace Process"]

[Text] For the first time in its history of teeming terrorism, Israel has received the attack on a tourist bus in Ismailia calmly, away from tensions, threats, and promises of severe retaliation and of punishing those who did it.

Of course, under such circumstances, it used to target the weakest point, Lebanon, for revenge by pouring the fire of its planes and artillery on the defenseless southern Lebanese villages, which regularly pay the price of any action against the Israeli presence anywhere.

This time, the situation is different. The incident took place on Egyptian territory. Israel knows very well Egypt's concern, commitment, efforts and potential to work toward peace. Egyptian authorities therefore hastened to condemn this act and acted quickly to contain the incident and restrict its repurcussions to the least possible moral and material damage.

Regardless of the explanations for and analyses of the circumstances, location, motive, and background of the operation, the first and final motive of those who carried it out, especially at this point, is to give terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir's government a powerful excuse to shatter Egyptian peace efforts and negotiations to organize a tripartite meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States, and Israel to discuss the enemy prime minister's plan to conduct elections in the occupied Arab territories.

The contact between Mubarak and Shamir, the first of its kind since Mubarak assumed office in 1981 [reference to Mubarak's 4 February telephone call to Shamir after the bus attack], came to block the way before this terrorist, limit his extremism, and nullify his calls for peace, which he rejects in form and content and maneuvers in every way to bide time and settle more Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

This is very well known by the Egyptian leadership, which also knows his lust for terrorism and thirst for blood. It nevertheless pursues its efforts in an attempt to convince him of the uselessness of expansionism and terrorism, and that peace is the best and safest way to remove the wick of explosion in this burning region of the world.

Shamir—who orders his invincible army to kill children, rip open the bellies of pregnant women, and ruin houses atop their owners—this Shamir was terrified, as he said, at the news of the attack on the bus. He is very sad over this incident. How we wish the conscience of this satan would move just one moment in time to feel sad at the children, women, and elderly who are dying at the hands of the Israeli "Defense Forces" in the torture and terrorism prisons for no reason other than that they are demanding the liberty and independence of their homeland and kicking out the invaders, who have profaned their land and robbed them of their history.

The strange thing is that the world's conscience is not moved at such revolting crimes—as though these victims have nothing to do with this earth. If an Israeli is injured anywhere in the world, however, only then does this world turn topsy-turvy, sadly denounce the death of civilians, and condemn terrorism and terrorists, while we remain fully convinced every Israeli soldier is armed to kill these people, strip them of their rights, and settle in their land.

The bus operation, and all previous and future operations against Israelis and their interests, therefore only is a result of the terrorist style the Zionists practice against the Palestinian people and their rights. It also affirms to Shamir peace based on justice is the only means to remove the wick of violence and destruction, no matter how arrogant he becomes in his attempts to transgress the logic of time.

Attack Has Benefits for Israel

JN0902141290 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
7 Feb 90 p 17

["News Analysis"]

[Text] Amman—AL-SIYASAH—This is the type of armed operation on which no one can cast doubt.

It stems from general feelings of pan-Arab frustration and spectacularly satisfies it, since this operation brings the death of a number of Israelis as an immediate response to the daily injuries the Palestinian people are subjected to under the occupation, and while they are pursuing their intifadah with decreasing foreign financial and moral support.

The operation also inflicts a deep wound on the peace process when Arab public opinion feels national concessions in the peace mechanisms have reached such a low point rectification is required.

The bus operation in Ismailia has revived the nearly withered general feelings. As a result, such an operation responds to impulsive pan-Arab feelings in a way that makes the person who doubts its real political goals publicly incapable of presenting those doubts.

Based on a fast-spreading political understanding, whoever has the courage to declare his doubts about the goals of the Ismailia bus operation must affirm beforehand, first, that any doubts about the political motives of the operation do not indicate a deficiency in in the dedication of those who directly carried it out, since they certainly do not know where it leads to or ends within the series of unknown circumstances usually controlling such an operation.

The people who carried out the Ismailia bus operation most likely are zealous youths who feel the political negotiations' mechanism has withered away; that it is moving at the expense of national and pan-Arab rights; and that to avenge the intifadah martyrs, all possibilities to kill Israelis should be used.

Those who carried out the Ismailia bus operation and who are most likely motivated by these blazing intentions, however, may not realize the Likud party, which leads the ruling coalition in Israel, is the first and immediate benefactor of the operation.

Zionist history from the beginning of this century is full of similar incidents in which the Zionists resorted to killing Jews whether during Hitler's time or the British mandate, to create the appropriate international atmosphere to implement Zionist strategic goals.

The first result of the Ismailia bus operation is to save Yitzhaq Shamir from the internal dilemma he is facing with the other Likud wings. This is the dilemma hreatening an explosion in today, Wednesday's, party meeting. After the bus operation, the meeting was postponed, which relieved the tension of explosion. Then there was a bid to call for new elections through which Shamir wishes to distance the Labor Party from the ruling coalition.

The second result, which those who carried out the Ismailia bus operation most likely know nothing about, is the operation gives impetus to the Likud plan shifting the crisis from inside the occupied territories to Jordan as part of Shamir's plan, namely: "Jordan is the solution".

The operation also harms some aspects of Egyptian internal security and its political structure at a time when Egypt is dedicating its diplomatic and political efforts to hosting the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue propelled by a specific concept shared by president 'Arafat and President Mubarak.

It is definite those who carried out the operation and bore its dangers out of faith have missed the fact the U.S. State Department does not care whether negotiations for a peacful settlement are hampered, since their secretary of state has priorities in Moscow and Europe. This makes the barren negotiations in the Middle East a very secondary issue, if not a waste of time.

Foreign Under Secretary Talks With John Kelly

LD1002112190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1017 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 10 (KUNA)—Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed al-Shaheen Saturday met with visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East and South East Asia Affairs John Kelly.

An official source at the ministry told KUNA that the talks focused on bilateral relations and international developments, particularly those relating to the Palestinian cause.

The source added that al-Shaheen and Kelly gave special attention during their meeting to the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, as al-Shaheen expressed Kuwait's concern over dangers of this exodus on the future of the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights expressed by the Amir in his address at the opening of the anniversary celebrations of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) last Wednesday.

He indicated that the two sides also reviewed international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Ambassador in Washington Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah and Director of the Americas Department at the Ministry Suhail Shuhaiber.

Saudi Arabia

Papers Respond to Israeli Bus Incident in Egypt

Israel Stands Accused

PM0902115090 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 3

['Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir article: "Mosad Behind Attack!"]

[Text] Most analyses indicate the attack on the bus carrying Israeli tourists in Egypt is designed to obstruct peace efforts in the region, especially as a meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state will be conducted shortly to boost these efforts and prepare for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Based on that fact, Israel is the main party accused. It is accused of planning the attack, on the grounds it is the prime beneficiary of the faltering of the endeavors exerted by Egypt in coordination with the PLO. No quarter except the Zionist entity will benefit from the operation, which seems to have been carefully planned and meticulously timed.

The Likud in fact hastened to cancel an important meeting scheduled for yesterday, Monday, which was expected to witness a heated confrontation between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and those opposed to his intransigent policy.

Now that the Likud meeting has been postponed, observers fear the enemy may try to postpone the tripartite meeting expected to be conducted in a European capital between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, on the pretext that the major ally in the Israeli Government still has not decided its position on peace efforts.

It is noted the Likud has not set a new date for its meeting. The meeting actually has been postponed indefinitely—which causes observers to point an accusing finger at the Israeli intelligence organ (Mossad). Observers expect the Israeli Government to intervene to cancel the Israeli peace caravan, which is expected to conduct talks in Cairo with Palestinians, including PLO members.

Even if we assume, for the sake of argument, an extremist Arab quarter is behind the attack, then it has served the Zionist entity more than it actually has served any Arab issue, especially as the enemy already has started to exploit the attack at all levels.

'Serves Enemies of Peace'

PM0902140890 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Who Did It, Why Now, and What Was the Reason Behind It?"]

[Text] Cairo—The attack on the bus carrying Israeli tourists on the Cairo-Ismailia road the night before last has given rise to many important questions.

One urgent question is: Why this incident now? In other words, what is the significance of the timing of the incident?

Another question is: Who was behind the incident?

A third question is: What was the purpose of carrying it out on Egyptian territory? In other words, why was Egypt chosen as the scene for the incident?

Political observers in Cairo are unanimous in saying that the incident at this particular time deals a blow to the efforts made to establish peace in the region. It occurred shortly before the U.S., Egytian, and Israeli foreign ministers were scheduled to meet in Geneva, within a matter of days.

The incident could be used by Israeli hard-liners, led by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, as an excuse for dissociating themselves from the attempts being made to promote a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a step forward toward establishing peace, on the pretext that the Palestinians were again resorting to "terrorist operations," which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said at the United Nations that the PLO has renounced, reaffirming the PLO's peace strategy.

Political observers do not rule out the possibility that the incident could have been an individual reaction to the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and to the escalating savage Israeli measures against the Palestinian people's intifadah against the Israeli occupation. If that was the case, then the incident was no more than a reaction to Israeli violence. Some observers point out that the incident occurred at a time of media uproar about Jewish immigration to Israel. Perhaps it was an attempt to emphasize that the occupied territory would not be a safe haven for the influx of Jewish immigrants.

The fact that the incident took place on Egyptian territory gives rise to several questions, such as: Do the large numbers of Israeli tourists going to Egypt and the fact that buses carrying Israeli tourists travel on a long desert road make attacks on them possible?

Or, was the incident meant to be an act against the role played by Egypt in the efforts to establish peace in the region in coordination and consultation with the Palestinian leadership?

Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said the incident was a challenge to the peace process but Egypt was determined to continue the process and to meet the challenge.

Responsible Egyptian and Palestinian sources in Cairo agree the incident was meant to undermine the peace process.

Now this question arises: Who was behind the incident, and in whose interest was it? Eyewitnesses say the culprits did not speak with an Egyptian accent.

Meanwhile, an anonymous caller told REUTER that a hitherto unknown organization called Supporters of the Political Detainees in Egyptian Prisons was responsible for the incident. In Israel Moshe Arens said he believed that certain extremist groups were most likely behind the incident.

Pending the results of current investigations, what is now certain is that the incident is an obstacle to peace efforts; it is not in the interest of the region's stability, peace, and security; and it only serves the enemies of peace, stability, and security, who always seek to abort peace efforts and impede the peace process.

Thai Official Arrives With Condolences

LD1102223490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has made the following statement:

His Royal Highness Prince Saudi al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has met with His Excellency the Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limprahan on Sunday 11 February 1990. His excellency offered the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and the families of the martyrs, the condolences of His Majesty the King of Thailand and the head of the Thai Government for the assassination of the three Saudi diplomats in the embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Thailand.

He also conveyed to the foreign minister and the families of the martyrs the condolences of his excellency the foreign minister of Thailand. The Thai deputy foreign minister also expressed his government's regret and great sorrow for what befell the three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok, stressing that the competent Thai authorities are exerting their utmost efforts to arrest the criminals, bring them to justice, and ensure all necessary protection measures to the Saudi diplomats working in Thailand.

On his part, his excellency the foreign minister expressed his appreciation for the initiative of the visit by his excellency the Thai deputy foreign minister to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to offer the condolences [words indistinct]. His Highness requested the Thai authorities exert all efforts to arrest those who carried out this criminal act [words indistinct] to ensure the necessary and constant protection of all members of staff of the embassy and Saudi bureau and Saudi citizens in Thailand.

Comments on Diplomats' Deaths

LD1102005790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Praphat Limpaphan explained he "had come to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand to convey the greetings of His Majesty the King of Thailand to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz."

In a press statement he made tonight on his arrival at King Khalid international airport in Riyadh, he said that "the custodian of the two holy mosques enjoys great respect in Thailand for being the man who achieved tremendous economic progress for the Saudi people." [passage omitted]

The Thai official explained the attitude of the Thai authorities following the assassination attempt, which claimed the life of the three Saudi diplomats and said, "The Thai authorities are exerting their utmost to uncover the perpetrators of the crime and hand them over to justice. They have mobilized 700 policemen for this case, which is receiving the full attention of the Thai Government." He noted he will inform the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the extra security measures taken to ensure the protection of the Saudi diplomats in Bangkok. [passage omitted]

Following this the Thai deputy foreign minister answered journalists' questions. Replying to a question on the stage of investigations regarding the assassination, he said "we are working 24 hours a day to arrest the criminals, and we have reached significant conclusions in these investigations."

Asked why the Thai Government did not bring the attacker who killed the Saudi diplomat, martyr Salih al-Maliki, to justice, he said "in the case of Salih al-Maliki, we have reached the final point at present and shortly, God willing, the court will pass its sentence."

Turkish Minister Arrives With Ozal 'Response'

JN0902191990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The personal envoy to leader President Saddam Husayn from Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Isin Celebi, the Turkish minister of state, today arrived in Baghdad on a visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Turkish envoy said he is conveying a written response to President Saddam Husayn from Turkish President Turgut Ozal. He added that during the visit he will discuss with the Iraqi officials relations between the two countries.

Minister of State Arshad al-Zibari, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Second Political Department, and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad received him at the airport.

Conveys Message to Saddam

JN1002164690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this morning received a written message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal on bilateral relations between the two neighboring states and ways to develop them in all spheres. Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi conveyed the message to his excellency the president.

The director general of economic relations at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad attended.

Confers With Oil Minister

JN1002174290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, oil minister and head of the Iraqi side to meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Turkish Committee, today met with Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting they discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation in various spheres in light of the meeting minutes of the joint committee. They also reviewed the progress made toward implementation of the agreements contained in these meeting minutes. The Turkish ambassador in Baghdad attended.

Meets Industry Minister

JN1102083090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, industry and military industrialization minister, met here this evening with Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi.

During the meeting they discussed a number of issues pertaining to the promotion of bilateral industrial cooperation. They agreed to form a joint committee to discuss initial steps to promote this cooperation. This committee will begin its meetings tomorrow, Sunday.

The under secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad attended.

Talks With Hammadi

JN1102204690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, received Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi this morning.

During the meeting, attended by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, they discussed promoting economic cooperation between the two countries. The Turkish ambassador in Baghdad also attended.

'Aziz Confers With Assistant Secretary Kelly

JN1102191490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met in Baghdad this evening with John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs.

During the meeting they discussed relations between Iraq and the United States, developments in the region, and a number of Arab and international issues of common interest.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary and heads of the Foreign Ministry's organizations, international conferences, and political departments, and the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad attended.

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 10 Feb

JN1002205190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today arrived in Baghdad from Tunis on an official visit to fraternal Iraq that will last for several days.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar was received at the airport by a number of senior Iraqi officials and Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Yugoslav Minister Discusses Joint Projects

JN1202053890 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Feb 90 p 20

[Interview with Yugoslav Minister of Development and Planning Bozidar Marendic in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-QABAS] What is the nature of your visit to Iraq? What are the most important post-war projects Yugoslav companies can carry out?

[Marendic] We are here to take part in the meetings of the joint cooperation committee. Its terms of reference include consolidation of economic, trade, technical, and technological ties. We naturally aim to boost long-term cooperation. During the visit, we will be concentrating on settling Yugoslav debts worth $650 million until 1990.

We always are looking for ways to boost trade between our two countries. Given the firm friendship, mutual confidence and interests, as well as an identity of views on a good many issues, Yugoslav companies are carrying out many Iraqi projects including an oil complex (the headquarters of the Oil Ministry), and the (Bakhmah) Dam in northern Iraq. We are about to start work on this huge project in conjunction with a major Turkish firm.

There also is the (Badwish) Dam and hydroelectric project. The Yugoslav companies will be engaged in work on the (Bakhmah) Dam project, worth $957 million. There are other projects worth $1 billion. [passage omitted]

'Urgent Action' Needed To Deal With Emigration

JN1002105890 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Feb 10, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today warned in an article against dangers of the Soviet Jews emigration to occupied Palestine on the Palestinian issue and the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to their homeland.

The paper clarified that the Zionist enemy, upon support from American imperialism, had chosen the suitable climate to embark on implementing its new expansionist scheme after some Arab and regional parties enabled it transcend in its policy at the expense of the Arab right.

The paper called for countering this dangerous Zionist plot through an official and popular Arab collective action.

The paper added that Arab serious and comprehensive confrontation necessitated an urgent action at the highest official levels not only for dealing with the emigration and its consequences and results but also for finding means for changing the entire Arab situation from the state of weakeness to the state of strength and cohesion. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Condemns Iran's 'Devious Stance'

JN1002160290 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad. Feb 10, INA—AL-QADISIYAH paper of Baghdad condemned Iran's devious stance in its continuous bids to violate the cease-fire with Iraq despite Iraq's successive peace calls and initiatives.

The paper has said that Iran premeditates during the past time to flood some areas in an attempt to threaten security of the Iraqi military units.

The paper has added that Iran's new behaviour is the most evident confirmation that this regime does not seek for benefiting from the ceasefire decision by achieving wishes unharmonious with ambitions of the parties endeavouring for peace.

The paper confirmed that insistence on exercising such operations coincided with Iran's insistence on not understanding the resolutions confirmed by the U.N. secretary general included in the paragraph no 14 addressed to the Security Council last year.

The paper said that submerging the land was one of the most dangerous events versus the breach of the ceasefire's provisions on which the Iranian regime was insisting.

The paper stressed that Iran's insistence on this dubious approach and Iraq's confirmations on putting an end to it certainly asserts obvious difference between Iraq's desire in peace and Iran's attempts to undermine it.

The paper confirmed that Iran's rejection of the U.N. secretary general call on the necessity of halting such violations undoubtedly demonstrates that Iran has been seeking for implementing its sinister scheme which was at variance with Iraq and the UN aspirations in peace.

The paper called on the international organizations and bodies to adopt appropriate measures to halt such violations that prejudice the peace efforts.

Further on Affects of Bus Attack, Peace Issues

Tripartite Meeting 'Next Week'

TA1102195090 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Two senior aides of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are slated to leave for Cairo tomorrow to prepare the meeting in that city of the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt and the U.S. secretary of state.

This has been learned by our political correspondent Yig'al Goren. U.S. and Israeli sources confirmed the report this evening, and said the meeting will be as soon as next week.

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, this evening said he does not know about the possibility of a meeting in Cairo. Mr. Ben-Aharon confirmed that Foreign Minister Arens is scheduled to meet with Secretary Baker in the coming days for talks in preparation for the tripartite foreign ministers meeting.

PLO Stand Pleases U.S.

TA1102075390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Feb 90 pp A1, 4

[By political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar and Washington correspondent Yo'av Qarni]

[Text] The affirmative response transmitted by the PLO to the United States—both directly and via Egypt—to its letter of guarantees has aroused optimism at the professional level of the State Department in Washington over the chances to advance the political process, according to a secret internal document placed last week on the desks of Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and senior officials in the ministry.

The document says there is satisfaction in Washington an understanding has been reached between the United States and the PLO on four issues: composition of the Palestinian delegation, the agenda for the meeting between the delegations, how the delegation list would be announced, and the guarantees.

The document points out the meeting of PLO leaders in Tunis gave 'Arafat a mandate to continue political activities according to the principles agreed upon between him and Egypt, and which are acceptable to the United States.

The evaluation of those who drafted the document is 'Arafat again managed to neutralize his internal opposition, although some hostility remains, and convening the tripartite meeting as quickly as possible now is his main objective.

Officials in Washington said that following the PLO's agreement to all the principles and arrangements prior to the Cairo meeting, the ball now is in Israel's court. The officials are anxiously awaiting the Likud Central Committee's resolutions tomorrow, and after that, those of the Inner Cabinet as demanded by the Alignment ministers who oppose Arens' departure for the United States before decisions are made in the Inner Cabinet.

Washington wants the trilateral foreign ministers meeting to be conducted next Monday, but points out the possibility it might be conducted at the end of that week following Arens' return from Mexico. Arens is due to arrive in the United States three days before then and conduct a tete-a-tete meeting first with Secretary of State James Baker.

Up to now, the PLO has demanded Israel not have a role in composition of the delegation, the delegation be composed only by it, and that the PLO be the only ones to announce its composition.

The United States rejected the third request, and 'Arafat recently accepted the compromise proposal Egypt simultaneously would announce the Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

The PLO agreed the deportees in the delegation not be "fresh" out of the territories, but residents expelled during the last two years and who were permitted to return before then for that purpose.

'Arafat agreed the deportees would not be known PLO activists or have a terrorist past, and that the members of the delegation from East Jerusalem also have addresses in the territories.

All these ideas were broached in talks conducted by Labor Party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington and Cairo. The two announced they would support the ideas when they are brought up in the Inner Cabinet.

In its letter to the United States, the PLO states the criteria for composing the delegation refer only to the present stage.

The PLO recalls the U.S. promise that its inclusion in a later stage has been left open, and that such a move depends on the organization's behavior. The PLO agreed to the U.S. formulation that along with the opening speeches (in which all subjects can be broached) the Cairo meeting's agenda would include elections and "the negotiating process."

It was agreed with the United States the expression "process" refers to all stages up to a permanent settlement. It can include, for instance, a promise of interlock [preceding word in English] between the interim arrangement and the final settlement, as referred to in the Shultz plan.

The PLO response refers to the draft of the guarantees' letter transmitted to the organization via Egypt and in talks between U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau and PLO representative Hakam Bal'awi.

The draft also was incorporated in a document handed to Cabinet secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, but which the Israeli Government so far has not discussed.

The guarantees to the PLO are:
—The United States opposes Israeli annexation and continued occupation of the territories.
—The settlement will be based on territories in return for peace.
—The dialogue and the elections will form a single stage toward an overall settlement within the framework of which the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people will be fulfilled.
—It was made clear the United States agrees that in a dialogue with Israel, the Palestinians will present their demand for an independent state, although Washington does not commit itself to support it.

U.S. sources said in talks with Israeli officials they have learned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir plans to present the Inner Cabinet with a proposal to discuss the names of Palestinians, and not criteria for their inclusion in a delegation to Cairo (deportees or residents of East Jerusalem). This way Shamir plans, according to these sources, to circumvent constraints over the inclusion of deportees and East Jerusalem residents in the Palestinian delegation.

Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, said in response the prime minister insists only Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip be included in the Palestinian delegation, and that Shamir has no intention of backtracking on this.

He said all deportees were expelled from the territories because of terrorist activity, therefore they cannot be incorporated into the delegation even if they return to their homes before then.

Yo'av Qarni, HA'ARETZ correspondent in the United States, adds it was estimated in Washington on Friday the USSR would want observer status in talks between Israel and the PLO in Cairo. "The Soviets will wait until the deal is almost completed and then join up," a source close to the political process estimated.

Alignment Leaders Pose Conditions

TA1002200690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Alignment leaders are demanding Foreign Minister Moshe Arens not depart for a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker before the Inner Cabinet reaches a decision on Israel's position regarding composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Minister Arens is expected to meet with Secretary Baker next Friday, although the date officially has not been confirmed.

Alignment ministers meanwhile have accused Minister Ari'el Sharon of leaking top secret material from Inner Cabinet deliberations to torpedo the Cabinet's peace initiative. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren is in the studio:

The United States, too, is anxiously awaiting the outcome of Monday's Likud Central Committee meeting. The next phases of the political process meanwhile already have been determined: Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is expected to confer with his counterpart, James Baker, as soon as the end of next week for a discussion of composition of the Palestinian delegation. This will be in preparation for the tripartite foreign ministers meeting.

Alignment leaders Peres and Rabin have demanded, however, that the foreign minister not go to that meeting without first obtaining a mandate from the Inner Cabinet or the forum of four. They want to make sure Arens will be unable to object to various clauses regarding composition of the Palestinian delegation, which have not yet been officially decided upon; they can guarantee this if Arens first is required to have the mandate of one of these forums.

Inner Cabinet members from the Alignment meanwhile have lambasted Minister Sharon for issuing the declarations regarding the deportees and the terrorist attack in Cairo. Minister Moshe Shahal told us Sharon's leaks from Inner Cabinet deliberations—leaks whose sole aim is to torpedo the government's initiative for a dialogue with the Palestinians—should be addressed very firmly. Sharon may have forgotten, said Shahal, that as defense minister, he himself allowed three well-known deportees to return to the territories. Minister Gad Ya'aqobi also said publication of secret material from Inner Cabinet discussions as done by Minister Sharon is very serious, especially as Sharon is misrepresenting what was stated because he wants to interfere with the peace process. The Alignment ministers emphasized some deportees never perpetrated terrorist acts and are not official members of the PLO. With them it will be possible to converse.

Minister Ari'el Sharon reacted by saying he does not wish to comment on off-the-cuff remarks by people he claims always leak information from Cabinet and Inner Cabinet sessions. As for the return of deportees during his term, he said even if deportees are allowed to return, under no circumstances should they be permitted to participate in the delegation for the negotiations.

Attack 'Aimed Against Peace'

TA0902143290 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] In a telephone conversation between Mr. Muhammad Sabih, official spokesman of the Palestine National Council, and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi in Jerusalem, Sabih said the peace strategy the PLO is pursuing is a firm strategy, not a tactic, and the PLO will defend it with utmost power. The PLO repeatedly has stated it is against terrorism, particularly organized terrorism.

He added the bus operation is aimed against peace, and its timing is very bad for the peace process. We hope peace- and freedom-loving forces on both sides will overcome these incidents which seek to halt the peace efforts in the region. These incidents are against the clearly peaceful tendency inside the PLO and specifically against Yasir 'Arafat and his obviously peaceful approach. The PLO hence has no connection whatever with this operation.

Dr. al-Tibi noted this regrettable incident should serve as an incentive for all the parties to accelerate efforts toward convening a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

Jihad Palestinians Behind Attack

TA1102203290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, has disclosed a squad of the Palestinian group within the Islamic Jihad perpertrated the attack on the bus of Israelis in Egypt.

He said this during a lecture at the Diamond Exchange in Ramat Gan. The chief of staff added that despite internal assessments the intifadah is weakening the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], Israeli Intelligence reports Syria knows that on the contrary, the intifadah strengthens the IDF. The chief of staff's remarks were quoted by our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Rabin Confirms Deportees' Role

TA1102114590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed during today's Cabinet meeting that two deportees were among the initiators of the bus attack in Egypt.

One of them was released in the exchange deal with Jibril and deported in 1988, while the other was deported in 1970 for involvement in a terrorist attack. This was reported by our political correspondent Arye Golan.

Minister Gad Ya'aqobi proposed the Cabinet conduct a debate to expand Israel's economic and political ties with East European countries. The prime minister promised such a debate would be conducted at one of the next Cabinet meetings.

Today the Cabinet launched a debate on immigration and was briefed by Foreign Ministry officials and Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports Minister Zvulun Hammer suggested launching new flight routes through West European countries as well. The professional elements at the debate, however, objected on the grounds of possible dropping out by emigrating Jews. [passage omitted]

'No Knowledge' of Cairo Plans

TA1202054090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says it has no knowledge that two U.S. State Department officials are arriving in Cairo today in order to prepare for the tripartite meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, and U.S. Secretary of State Baker. The Voice of Israel political reporter says the officials are examining the possibility that the talks may be held next week.

Shamir Asked To Restate Objection

TA1102123990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has called on the prime minister to ease the heavy atmosphere in the Likud by announcing he has not reneged on his objection to the two central points: the inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation and of East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections.

In an interview with the Voice of Israel, David Levi said for some reason, the prime minister so far has not made such a statement. Mr. Levi added he naturally will come if invited by the prime minister, but despite the reports about the possibility of such a meeting, to this date he has not received an invitation.

David Levi further expressed regret over the various remarks made by his colleagues, the constraints ministers, saying this conduct diverts the debate from the central issue.

Minister Ehud Olmert said he does not think a compromise between the opponent camps is possible, and the argument between the camps must be settled. According to him, personal considerations are the main factor in this argument. The constraints ministers' mud-slinging, cursing and insulting utterances, as well as the leaflets disseminated among Central Committee members which alleged certain Likud figures are PLO agents, therefore are not mere accidents.

Polls: Shamir Has 'Absolute Majority,' Support

TA1202091090 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has an absolute majority in the Likud Central Committee, and most of its members support his political positions and leadership, according to two parallel polls commissioned by YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

One poll was conducted by Teleseqer through telephone interviews with 600 Central Committee members. The second poll was conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah of the Dahaf Institute on a sample of 637 Central Committee members. The same questions were polled in both polls.

The first question polled was: "Do you support Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position?" The answers in the Dahaf poll were divided as follows: 63 percent supported Shamir, 17 percent supported the constraints ministers, and 20 percent either refused to answer or had no opinion.

In the Teleseqer poll, the answers were divided as follows: 56.3 percent for Yitzhaq Shamir, 16.2 percent for the constraints ministers, 27.5 percent had no opinion or refused to answer.

The second question polled was: "Who do you think is the man best suited to head the Likud at the moment? The answers in the Dahaf poll were divided as follows: Yitzhaq Shamir, 67 percent; Ari'el Sharon, six percent; David Levi, five percent; Moshe Arens four percent; Dan Meridor, one percent; Beni Begin, one percent; others, five percent; refused to answer 11 percent.

The answers in the Teleseqer poll were: Shamir, 66.2 percent; Sharon, five percent; Levi, 4.5 percent; Arens, 3.7 percent; Begin, 1.5 percent; Meridor, 1.3 percent; none of the above, 7.4 percent; had no position or refused to answer, 10.4 percent.

The high number of abstainees in the poll conducted by Teleseqer stems partly from the fact some of the respondents do not answer the phone on the Sabbath.

Shamir Sees No Compromise Prior to Likud Meeting

TA1202061890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan on 12 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, is a last minute compromise between yourself and Minister Arens and the constraints ministers possible before the Likud Central Committee meets this afternoon? Do you plan to make some kind of gesture toward Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i, or are you determined to go all the way this time?

[Shamir] Well, this is not a war between Gog and Magog. The Likud Central Committee must make up its mind. I do not see any compromise solution. The most logical compromise between my position and that of the Central Committee chairman is to let the Central Committee decide the kind of agenda it prefers and the order of voting it wants. I think this is a very fair proposal, which could settle the issue without any unnecessary clashes.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, very harsh statements have been made throughout your showdown with the constraints ministers; Minister Moda'i even mocked your physical height. Were you personally offended?

[Shamir] I think it is beneath my dignity to deal with or discuss such matters. I believe such behavior has no room in politics or among people who should work and live together. It is more a question of atmosphere, of a civilized way of life. I am sure Likud members resent such a style and behavior.

[Golan] Would you like to see two of the people who created this atmosphere outside the Likud Movement?

[Shamir] I will not talk about people.

[Golan] Last week Minister Sharon disclosed secret information when he said there were deportees among the planners of the attack on the bus in Egypt. This was very secret information. Do you plan to reach any conclusions regarding Minister Sharon on this point?

[Shamir] As I said, these matters are unrelated totally to the Central Committee convention. At the moment, all my attention is given to the convention.

[Golan] Do you fear there will be a rift, all hell will break loose, and the convention will break up?

[Shamir] Perhaps. There may be some unpleasant incidents which I would not like to see. I do not fear a rift, given there are no conditions or reasons for a rift and because there are no ideological differences of opinion between us. But I expect the Likud Central Committee to make an unequivocal decision.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, I thank you very much.

Shamir Speech To Allay Constraints' Demands

TA1102065990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Likud elements are trying to arrange a meeting between the prime minister and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi to insure that tomorrow's Central Committee convention will take place.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that recently, there has been much talk in the Likud about the possibility the convention will be explosive. It consequently is hoped a meeting between Levi and Shamir will avert such a development.

Today the prime minister is expected to write his address to the Central Committee. His aides said the constraints ministers will have no reason to insist on their demands. They added, however, the speech also will include the need to preserve the unity government.

Minister Ari'el Sharon said he will take all necessary steps to secure an orderly Central Committee convention. He called for forbearance by the convention participants.

Further on Jewish Immigration to Territories

CSSR Refuses Transit Role

TA1102081890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Feb 90

[By Natan Gutman, "special correspondent" in Prague]

[Excerpt] Beyond the festive and friendly atmosphere that prevailed during Minister Arens' visit in Prague, his talks included numerous practical matters.

The Czechoslovaks were very interested in the nature of the economic and cultural ties, and mainly in the spheres in which Israel can be instrumental in assisting the CSSR economy.

Foreign Minister Arens asked his counterpart Jiri Dienstbier to allow the transit through Czechoslovakia of Soviet Jews en route to Israel. Failing to obtain an affirmative reply from the foreign minister, Arens raised the issue with President Vaclav Havel. At first, Havel replied with a smile that the planes bearing the Jews should be able to take home the Soviet soldiers deployed in Czechoslovakia.

In a serious discussion, the Czechoslovaks also rejected the idea. Havel enumerated several reasons, the main reason being the fact the Jewish emigrants will be obliged to use Soviet flights, since the CSSR does not have many planes. The CSSR adamantly is against the arrival of more Soviet planes on its soil. It was further explained since the police had been disbanded, it will be difficult to guarantee the safety of the Jewish emigrants.

In addition to the above, the impression was there is Arab pressure on Czechoslovakia on this matter. [passage omitted]

Envoy to USSR Comments

TA0902185590 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Interview with Arye Levin, representative in the Soviet Union, currently in Israel, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; date not given]

[Text] [Ganor] Ambassador Levin, are the changes taking place in the Soviet Union also reflected in the sphere of relations with Israel?

[Levin] Because the USSR right now is no longer an introverted superpower; undoubtedly it faces the world. This is one of the most prominent and exciting phenomena. Without question, Israel is part of the world, possibly not an unimportant part. What happens in the Soviet Union, therefore, ultimately will manifest in bilateral relations.

[Ganor] What characterizes these bilateral relations now?

[Levin] What many people in Israel should bear in mind, but sometimes tend to forget, is our relations with the Soviet Union still are only at the level of an unofficial and temporary presence in the Soviet capital. We still a are part of the Netherlands Embassy, lacking a permanent or official status. We are a temporary representation.

[Ganor] Should one expect full relations between the USSR and Israel to be renewed, following the example of the CSSR and Hungary?

[Levin] The USSR is a major superpower. It has a lot of problems and its own priorities. I do not believe the issue you just mentioned is at the top of the Soviets' order of priorities. I do hope, though, that it will be.

We must tell ourselves for now that what the Soviets have said regarding raising the level of the existing consular delegations in the two countries should be a topical issue.

[Ganor] What about other levels?

[Levin] In those areas we already have practical manifestations: There has been some progress concerning economic ties, some contacts have been made in scientific areas, and there are relations in other spheres as well. But things still develop slowly because the problems are vast and complex, not only because of us, but also because of the objective difficulties encountered by such a large superpower wanting to reexamine economic and other possibilities involving a far smaller country.

[Ganor] Amb. Levin, on the eve of your arrival here, the USSR warned against attempts to settle immigrants in the territories. Is the departure of Jews from the Soviet Union in jeopardy?

[Levin] According to the Helsinki and Vienna agreements, the USSR is committed to certain things as far as human rights are concerned. The Soviet leadership at present believes standing by these commitments is important to its image as a law-respecting country—this long has been the line of thinking. This is the status the USSR wants to attain today: to be considered a country that honors the law. This is something the Soviets always emphasize. That is why I believe, or want to believe, the USSR will honor its international undertakings.

[Ganor] Despite the pressure applied by the Arab countries that it stanch the flow of Jewish emigration?

[Levin] I am aware of the fact the Arab countries are putting pressure on the Soviet Union, although of course I do not know what the Soviets think deep down about the matter. Yet my feeling is the Soviet Union does not want to draw a distinction between, say, the departure of Armenians or Germans and some Tatars and the departure of Jews. It is all one package. The USSR's undertakings do not specify Jews, and the issue of human rights does not apply exclusively to a certain ethnic group. I therefore hope and pray the USSR's liberal attitude will continue.

Netanyahu Comments

TA1102081090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Feb 90 sb

[By Amir Fink]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday revealed a new assessment of the Foreign Ministry: There is a chance Jews from three endangered communities in our region will be able to make aliyah to Israel.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] We now are conducting negotiations and taking action through which Jewish communities in distress in the area adjacent to our country will be able to return home. I am referring to several countries, but I do not want to say too much as others did in the past, thereby putting an untimely end to a most important immigration.

There have been developments, however, in at least three countries around us. I believe these developments will bear fruit in the very near future. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Increase in Moscow Staff Possible

TA1102175390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Arye Levin, our Moscow representative, currently in Israel, did not take part in today's Cabinet session, which dealt with immigration from the USSR.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports Levin was not invited to attend the meeting, although other officials from the Foreign Ministry and other ministries were.

Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who recently visited Moscow, protested this at the Cabinet meeting, and was seconded by other ministers. Weizman claimed the Israeli representatives in Moscow are overburdened by the hundreds of applications they receive daily, and they can be reinforced by local workers and additional representatives from Israel. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is prepared to increase the staff there, 'Ezer Weizman said.

Modrow Statement on Holocaust Examined

TA0902190790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Following the statement by East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow that his country accepts its responsibility for the holocaust and promises to compensate the victims financially, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem today stated that Israel is examining this announcement.

The Foreign Ministry is continuing its contacts with the GDR Foreign Ministry, pursuant to the appeal by the East German Government in which it announced its desire to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel believes the GDR must assume full responsibility for the holocaust.

Foreign Ministry 'Welcomes' Mandela Release

TA1102065690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman has declared Israel welcomes the announcement regarding the release of Nelson Mandela.

The spokesman said Israel believes the release is a further important step toward an understanding between the sides in South Africa.

Mandela is to leave prison this afternoon.

Shamir: No New Agreements With South Africa

TA1102185490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said Israel will live up to its agreements with South Africa.

He noted that Israel had agreed several years ago not to sign any new defense agreements with South Africa, and was living up to this. The prime minister also said it is impossible to know what the situation will be there in the months to come.

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres called it a great victory for freedom:

[Begin Peres recording] I think these are great news for everybody concerned. It is another victory for freedom and liberty. I do believe it makes every person today more optimistic about the future of humanity and about the relations between north and south, black and white. Hopefully, we shall be a world of freedom and equality. [end recording]

Shamir Welcomes Resumption of Ties With CSSR

TA0902185990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Czechoslovak counterpart, Jiri Dienstbier, today signed a protocol that resumes diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this is a great day for the two nations, which are renewing their ties following a 23-year hiatus. Mr. Shamir said the Israeli nation always has harbored feelings of friendship for the Czechoslovak people. We never have forgotten the assistance Czechoslovakia extended to us during establishment of the state.

Yitzhaq Shamir was talking to Josef Hromadka, CSSR deputy prime minister, who is visiting Israel. The guest noted the resumption of ties is a direct outcome of the revolution that had taken place in his country. He stressed the history of the two nations is closely intertwined. He agreed with the prime minister that cooperation between the two countries should be tightened.

EC, Other States Take Action Against State

TA1002062290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Fifteen countries, mostly European, have demanded Israel not settle new immigrants in the territories.

In a draft resolution submitted to the UN Human Rights Commission, they state settlement in the territories would violate the Geneva Convention, which bans the victor from making changes in the occupied population.

Ireland and Sweden initiated the resolution proposal and is cosigned, among others, by the FRG, Britain, France, Spain, Japan, New Zealand, Egypt, and Morocco.

The EC Commission has announced postponement of several joint events with Israel because of the deadlock in the peace process, the situation in the territories, and because Europeans were hurt in the Peace Now rally staged two months ago in Jerusalem. The EC commissioner for Mediterranean affairs has postponed his visit scheduled for next month. A seminar on the EC, scheduled for next month in Israel, also has been postponed, as was a meeting on scientific cooperation scheduled for April. These steps follow the EC decision not to sign an energy cooperation agreement with Israel.

Cabinet Briefed on Jordan-PLO Relationship

TA1102154990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] It was reported at the Cabinet meeting this morning Jordan is acting to prevent infiltrations from its territory into Israel.

It nevertheless allows PLO leaders to stay on its land to restrain the Palestinians from operating against King Husayn's regime. Our political correspondent Arye Golan adds the Cabinet also was informed the PLO transfers money to Jordan, and the Jordanian regime is careful in its treatment of PLO people, as well as of radical Muslims.

Commentary Assails Jordanian Press on Bus Attack

JN1102195690 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 11 Feb 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Excerpts] The Egyptian press in general, just as the Egyptian Government and people, has adopted an honorable humanitarian position on the heinous terrorist operation against Israeli tourists a week ago in Egypt. [passage omitted]

This sums up the respected, honorable stand taken by the Egyptian press in general. In Jordan, however, the newspaper SAWT AL-SHA'B did not hesitate to expose a hateful, ugly phenomenon that can be described as one of the symptoms of the psychological complex, namely the Israel complex; that is the complex of hostility to Israel and the Israeli people.

In its editorial today, this Jordanian newspaper, SAWT AL-SHA'B, showed an imagination that best can be described as sick by saying the Israeli bus incident near Ismailia was the creation of Israeli terrorism, and its objective was to prevent the Egyptians from criticizing Israel's position on peace.

This is how the Jordanian SAWT AL-SHA'B wrote and vomited in its editorial today. Congratulations to it, its chief editor, and its editorial staff on the scoop they have added today to the catalogue of disgrace they have accumulated in the past in their devotion to serving the sacred message of the press, which is to spread the spirit of coexistence between man and his brother and among peoples and religions.

Perhaps it would be fair to say the real criminals are those in positions of the highest responsibility in Jordan, because apparently, they are trying to make up for the lack of press freedom in Jordan by granting Jordanian journalists full license to oppose Israel, to spit poisons of hatred against the Israeli people, and to spread the vilest lies and accusations against Israel and its people.

Further on Shomron's IDF, Budget Remarks

TA1202104790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Feb 90 p 2

[By A. Qeren]

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, said yesterday intelligence reports indicate the Arab countries do not believe the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is growing weaker because of the intifadah.

Speaking at the Diamond Exchange Club in Ramat Gan, the chief of staff said even the Syrians realize that in a war, the IDF will not fight them with rubber and plastic bullets.

According to Lt. Gen. Shomron, the IDF employs not more than seven percent of its forces in fighting the intifadah, while the rest of the Army continues training and developing weapons. The chief of staff said he would have been glad had the Army not been forced to deal with the intifadah, but the assessment we will not be able to endure it is exaggerated.

Lt. Gen. Shomron stressed we will achieve peace only when it is clear to the Arab countries there is no military way to defeat us. He noted the spread of extremist Islam in our region, mainly from the time Khomeyni assumed power in Iran, and said it also affects pragmatic regimes that are not Muslim.

The murder in Egypt was committed by the Islamic Jihad (the Palestinian branch), Shomron said, noting that today we are struggling against the results of the revolution that took place 11 years ago.

According to him, the Arab armies are preparing themselves for a prolonged war, while the Israeli side must end a war quickly, with minimal damage. The IDF is therefore built around a concept of attack. "An army is not an exact science, and results cannot be measured," he said, adding a major part of war is psychological, and only an attack can create the psychological momentum with minimum casualties and damage.

As for the IDF's economic resources, Shomron noted that in 1975 the defense budget was 39 percent of the state budget, while today it constitutes only 20 percent. The IDF at the same time constantly is trying to reduce the defense burden.

Referring to the intifadah, the chief of staff said the struggle today is not over power, but rather Israeli and world public opinion. According to him, an army that operates in a way not representative of the society from which it is assembled will begin to show cracks after a while. "We will operate within the boundaries of the law," Shomron stated, "because if we do not, we will find ourselves in a grave position within Israeli society."

The chief of staff said he believes it is possible to maintain order in the territories within the framework of the law, while preventing a situation in which the Army forces the nation's leadership to act contrary to its interests. "We, as an army, must allow the government the freedom to make decisions," he said.

Lt. Gen. Shomron claimed there is no phenomenon of refusing orders in the Army, where everyone knows their mission is parallel with the law. [passage omitted]

5 Deportees Said Operating in Cairo PLO Offices

TA0902163690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Feb 90 p A1

[By Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Security sources in Israel last night said a group of five Palestinians deported from the Gaza Strip during the last two years is operating in Egypt.

A security source told HA'ARETZ the five deportees are operating overtly from PLO offices in Cairo and are involved in other activities. The five deportees are:

—'Abdallah Abu-Samahdana, deported a year ago. He is considered a Fatah activist and was in charge of all the strike committees in the Gaza Strip. He was called "the chief of staff of the strike committees."

—Frayj Ahmad al-Khayri, a Fatah activist who was a member of the Engineers Association in Gaza, considered one of the leading Fatah activists in the region.

—'Ata Abu-Karsh, a Fatah activist also deported from the Gaza Strip.

—Muhammad al-Mudawikh, released in the prisoner deal with Ahmad Jibril.

The fifth deportee is Jamil Zakut, an activist for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who according to security sources cooperates with Fatah. Security sources stress that all the deportees are operating from known offices in Egypt belonging to the PLO. The sources added the five are involved in the intifadah and transmit messages to the Gaza Strip.

They also claimed the five deportees dealt with planning and preparing hostile activities against Israel. According to the sources, it is possible one or two of the deportees is active against Israeli targets without the PLO's knowledge. [passage omitted]

Security sources transmitted last night the names of three other deportees from the Gaza Strip who crossed through Cairo after being deported; it is not clear whether they still are there. They are:

—Sayyid Husayn Barakat, a former Bani-Suhaylah resident who was political head of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip. He also was released in the deal with Jibril and later deported.

—Muhammad 'Abdallah Isma'il al-Gharbali [name as published]. [passage omitted]

—Ahmad Fu'ad Mustafa Abu-Mu'aylaq. [passage omitted]

Youth Killed; Soldiers Hurt; Curfew Imposed

TA0902181790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] An Arab resident of Qabatiyah in Samaria who tried to stab IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers manning an observation post near a house in town was shot to death this afternoon.

Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus riots broke out after the incident, during which two soldiers suffered slight injuries and some other locals also were hurt. A curfew was imposed on Qabatiyah, and a senior officer is investigating the incidents.

Peace Activist Nathan Released From Jail

TA0902160190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Abie Nathan was released from Eyal Prison this morning. He was greeted by some of his friends and children who presented him with a dove, an olive branch, and a bouquet of flowers.

Abie Nathan spent four months in jail [for meeting with Yasir 'Arafat], but his imprisonment was shortened for good behavior. Upon his release he said he will fight against the law banning contacts with the PLO.

Meningitis Scare as Girl Dies, 3 Hospitalized

TA1002110590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] It is feared the disease known as meningococcemia, the killer meningitis, might break out again in western Galilee.

Last night a 6-year-old girl from Nahf died of the disease. Three other children from her family were hospitalized in serious condition at the Government Hospital in Nahariyya. Our correspondents Shula Shmerling and Nati Silberman report the girl was brought last night to the Nahariyya hospital and died within one hour. An examination revealed she had suffered from the killer strain of meningitis.

Three of her cousins, ages 12, 14, and 15, also from Nahf, were brought to the hospital a short time afterward in serious condition. They were placed under strict isolation conditions and now are being treated. The hospital and the Northern District Health Office immediately prepared to deal with the outbreak. A special classification room was set up to receive additional cases, if there are any, because the disease is contagious.

A Health Ministry spokesman reported as soon as the news of the outbreak reached the ministry, special teams left for the village, and as early as last night the teams began locating and immunizing all people who were in contact with the four children. The teams also explain the nature of the disease to prevent panic in the village.

Our correspondent notes last year there were several cases of this disease in western Galilee, and at least three people died.

Youth Hurt in Demonstration; Curfew in Gaza

TA1002151690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] An Arab youth from Nabulus was injured by a plastic bullet this morning during a stoning incident.

The hospital reported he is in stable condition. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the incident broke out following a demonstration conducted by about 50 members of the Palestinian Communist Party, who were marking the anniversary of the party's establishment. They carried a banner condemning the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union.

A curfew was imposed on two Gaza neighborhoods this morning to permit the Israel Defense Forces to conduct operations.

'Dozens' Wounded in Rafah; Collaborator Killed

TA1102093090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Feb 90 p 8

[By Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Palestinians in Rafah reported renewed heavy clashes with troops last night, with dozens of people wounded, including 30 who were evacuated to the Khan Yunus hospital.

The IDF [Israeli Defence Forces] said it had received reports of 26 wounded admitted to the hospital, of whom 21 had been released and one transferred to al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza.

[In a related report, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 February states that "in an incident which erupted in the Shabura neighborhood in the Rafah refugee camp, at least 50 residents were injured by gunfire and gas inhalation."]

Unrest at Rafah had erupted last week in the wake of the attack on a busload of Israeli tourists in Egypt. The bus driver and the driver of the getaway car were Palestinians originally from Rafah, according to Egyptian security officials. [passage omitted]

In Friday's incident at Qabatiyah, 'Abd-al-Qadir Akmal, 19, was fatally shot by soldiers who were on a rooftop lookout post after he was summoned and asked for his identification card, residents said. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 11 February reports "Adnan Sulayman from the Samaria township of Qabatiyah died last night in a Nabulus hospital. He was wounded last Thursday in a violent incident in Qabatiyah, in which a youth tried to stab Army soldiers."]

The killing sparked unrest in Qabatiyah. In stone-throwing clashes with troops, at least six villagers, some of them women, were wounded, and two soldiers were lightly hurt, military sources said. Palestinians said at least 10 villagers were wounded. Military sources said soldiers had opened fire with live ammunition after using tear-gas and both rubber and plastic bullets. A curfew was clamped on the village.

Residents violated the curfew yesterday and clashed with troops, who shot and wounded a youth in the leg, according to local reports. [passage omitted]

At Burin, south of Nabulus, residents claimed that settlers from neighbouring Yitzhar had on Thursday night hurled stones and smashed windows in the home of Walid 'Id, and also smashed windows of three cars with rocks and rifle butts. The settlers were seen driving off toward Yitzhar in a station wagon. Three local residents filed complaints with the Nabulus police, Palestinians said.

The incident was the latest reported retaliation by Yitzhar residents for stone-throwing at their cars near Burin.

At the al-Burayj camp in the Gaza Strip, the body of Muhammad Jalluq, 38, was found on Friday. Jalluq, reputed to be an informer for the security services, had been stabbed to death, Palestinians said.

[THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 11 February carries an unattributed sidebar reporting that "the security forces have refused permission to Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an to leave the country for a conference at Georgetown University, which is to be attended by several prominent Palestinians who live in the U.S."]

Death of Local Youth Spark Riots in Gaza

TA1202083490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Riots broke out this morning in al-Shaja'iyah and other Gaza neighborhoods when news spread of the death of 15-year-old Husam Jihad Za'im.

He was seriously wounded in a violent clash last night and later died of his wounds at Tel Hashomer Hospital. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports one local was wounded this morning in the clashes. Many students stayed out of school. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] dispersed the riots with the help of tear gas and rubber and plastic bullets.

In the Tulkarm refugee camp, Fatah supporters last night called on locals to stop wearing masks or otherwise covering their faces for 10 days. They explained their call by saying robbers, bandits, and collaborators recently had been operating under the cover of these masks, thus seriously hurting the population and the intifadah.

Update on 11 Feb Events in Territories

TA1202101890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Feb 90 p 8

[By Joel Greenberg]

[Text] A Palestinian critically wounded on Friday in clashes with troops at Qabatiyah, near Janin, died of his wounds late Saturday night in the al-Ittihad al-Nisa'i Hospital in Nabulus.

Palestinians identified him as 'Adnan Asad Isma'il, 45, and said he had been shot in the head during clashes that erupted after a local youth was killed by troops. A total of 14 villagers were reported wounded in the clashes, including three seriously injured.

In the Gaza Strip, an Unrwa [UN Relief and Works Agency] spokeswoman expressed alarm over a flood of Palestinian casualties in several days of heavy clashes, mostly in Rafah and the town's refugee camp, Reuters reported.

"We would like to express our concern about the very high number of casualties over the last few days," said an UNRWA spokeswoman, Claire Grimes.

Two Palestinians have been killed and, according to UN figures, 132 wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in five days of heavy clashes, apparently linked to last week's terrorist attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt. The bus driver and driver of the terrorists' getaway car were Palestinians originally from Rafah, according to Egyptian security sources.

Grimes said that the stream of casualties was putting extreme pressure on UN health clinics and ambulance services. Hospital officials said there were dozens more wounded that the UN had not reported.

In the West Bank three schools were ordered closed indefinitely at the Tulkarm refugee camp, where a five-day curfew was lifted yesterday, Palestinians reported. The Civil Administration has in recent days closed down about a dozen West Bank schools, citing disturbances by pupils.

In Tulkarm, a 13-year-old boy, 'Abd-al-Karim 'Amshari, was shot three times and wounded by soldiers who pursued stone-throwers in a commandeered local car, residents said. The IDF had no report of the incident.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 February carries a similar unattributed report on page 11, adding: "A new type of strike committee has recently been uncovered in the Gaza Strip.

["A security forces investigation has revealed that the members of these committees, aged between 16 and 18, have been writing leaflets, distributing them in schools, and supervising the riots there.

["Senior officers in the Gaza Strip have reported that the students are being incited by professional agitators who enter the schools during study hours and order the students out. Since the end of the last winter vacation, some 25 schools have been closed in the Gaza Strip because of riots."]

Editorial Says Israel Behind Attack on Bus

JN1102075590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Feb 90 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Israeli Terrorism Is Behind the Bus Incident"]

[Text] Statements made by the Egyptian interior minister concerning the death of a number of Israeli tourists point the accusing finger at the same party behind the sinking of the ship that was carrying hundreds of Jews immigrating to Palestine in the forties.

The issue raised by Israel through the bus operation is very dangerous because it targets gagging the Arabs, especially in Egypt, and taming the Arab nation until it becomes exhausted and emaciated, hailing Israel, Zionism, and its crimes throughout history.

How otherwise can one explain the fact the planning of the bus incident took place inside Israel itself and the aggressors carried American weapons only available in Israel?

It has become clear Israeli sides wish to destroy the fragile peace between Egypt and Israel based on Camp David for one simple reason—this peace contradicts Yitzhaq Shamir's call to set up Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile.

When the reason becomes known, therefore, surprise disappears.

Israel was not concerned about the incident as much as it was concerned about Egypt's writers and press, whom it accused of being anti-semitic and bearing great enmity toward Jews. The Egyptian interior minister clearly stated those who carried out the incident planned for it in Israel and used American weapons only available in Israel.

Israel has roused the sympathies of world public opinion by concentrating on the incident right before the meeting between Shevardnadze and Baker in Moscow to cover up for the large Jewish emigration from Moscow, to get out of the tripartite meeting, postpone the Likud Bloc meeting, and other reasons known only to the planners of the operation.

Baker's Message to Klibi Contains 'Enmity'

JN1002113490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Feb 90 p 28

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Insult"]

[Text] If what journalist Baha'-al-Din reported regarding the U.S. secretary of state's message to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi is true, then the subject no longer is only that of U.S. commitment to Zionist usurpation of Arab land.

In fact, it is clear U.S. enmity, which we expect, in light of international .changes, to take an uglier form of animosity and domination than over the banana republic in Central America.

The U.S. message says that, in Washington's view, Arab countries must take two steps to arrive at a real peace: The first is to end their economic boycott against Israel. The second is to work to revoke the UN General Assembly's resolution that considers Zionism a racist movement.

The two U.S. demands are not new; the Zionized members of Congress have contemplated them for a long time. What is new, however, is the U.S. Administration has adopted these two demands and peddled them to the Arab League secretary general, who kept silent until the subject was disclosed by journalist Baha'-al-Din.

The two issues, as we have said, are not so much part of the U.S. commitment to Zionist aggressiveness as much as they are a disdainful and insulting aggression against the Arab nation. This is because they infringe upon the legitimate right of self-defense granted to peoples who are attacked—peoples who are supposed to have the freedom of decision by virtue of their membership in the United Nations—concerning their economic boycott of an entity that occupies land, suppresses its people, and imposes its policy on them through settlement. The issue also is related to the right of the world's peoples who reject racism wherever it is: in the United States against blacks and hispanics, in South Africa, or in Palestine. So how can Arab countries ask Third World Asian and African countries to absolve Zionism of its racist nature?

This U.S. demand has to be exposed for what it is—if the report on Baker's message to Arab League secretary general is true—and the Arabs must reply to it. Here we mean the Arab peoples, for those who Washington is asking not to conduct an Arab summit—and who agree to Washington's demand—are not the ones to answer the rest of Baker's demands.

He who is accustomed to humiliation will not mind more of it. [Arabic saying] Witnessing the Arab humiliation, the United States feels it has absolute mastery over the region, that the Israeli gangster is ready with his thick club, and that its demands will increase in the next stage to the extent of taming the region—the way circus animals are tamed!

We say: Evil sometimes boomerangs, for U.S. effrontery and the Israeli threat will awaken the giant who has been humiliated, injured, and torn. Our nation will not die and will reply to this disgraceful aggression and the blatant imperialist-Zionist challenge.

Editorial Examines Soviet Statement on Emigration

JN1002120490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Feb 90 Second Edition pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Assertions That Need Proof"]

[Text] Moscow has said the two superpowers are not pleased with the Israeli settlement policy. As Arabs, these words reassure us somewhat, especially as they come after the meeting between Shevardnadze and Baker, two people who are concerned with reducing and neutralizing dangers throughout the world.

If Moscow and Washington are not pleased with the Israeli settlement policy, the first paramount duty is to halt Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, which Moscow can do; and to stop the financial support to settle those immigrants, which Washington can do.

The intensive Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union's republics could not have taken place were it not for the internal and external pressures Moscow has been subjected to since the end of World War II, especially from Washington, to transfer this huge part of its population to another country—a country totally alien to them.

Moscow's problems may be relieved by the surge of Jewish emigrants, but the problem caused by the Soviet immigration to the Middle East must be be remedied by making the two superpowers shoulder their moral responsibilities toward the safety and peace of the peoples of the world.

The immigration has been agreed upon among Moscow, Washington, and Tel Aviv. In the Arab region, which extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf, Arab countries feel the imminent threat posed by this great surge of Soviet Jews to the Middle East.

Are Moscow's statements enough to cool the atmosphere in the Middle East? Or is there a need for utmost caution when making such statements, which are in reality inapplicable to the situation in the Middle East?

Minister Details Toxic Waste Policy to Parliament

JN1102150190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—Minister of Municipal, Rural Affairs and the Environment 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi told the Lower House of Parliament Saturday that Jordan has many chemical waste plants and Minister of Finance Basil Jardaneh told the House that his ministry pays JD 175,000 annual rent for the building it occupies. Both ministers were answering deputies questions.

In a reply to a question by Deputy Nayif Abu-Tayih (South Bedouins district) about the disposal of chemical waste in the country, Dughmi said Jordan has several plants that produce chemical waste. But he did not go into specifics.

He said that uncontrolled disposal of this waste "threatens the ecological elements and is a danger to public health."

He said that since mid-1980 many committees were formed to find suitable methods of disposal and sites for this purpose.

Many sites were chosen only to be dropped later because of their approximity to populated areas, the minister said. One site was abandoned because it lay next to military training field, he said.

The minister said at last a site was chosen, 38 kilometres north-east of Siwaqah south of Amman. He said geological studies proved the site was not conducive to seeping of the waste into ground water.

Dughmi outlined producers for the use of the dump site and said that many other procedures had yet to be adopted and applied.

He said moving the site to the east was not possible as inquired by Abu-Tayih. "Moving east would endanger al-'Azraq and Sirhan water basins, to the south would getting close to military zones, and west and north would infringe on bedouin areas," Dughmi explained.

Dughmi concluded by saying that dry batteries used by house-holds and disposed of recklessly contain toxic material and that his ministry was ready to collect those batteries in collaboration with other concerned authorities. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Declares Country 'Toxic Waste-Free Zone'

JN1202080090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Cabinet has declared Jordan a "toxic-waste-free zone" in line with the Basle Agreement on toxic waste to which the Kingdom is a signatory. Under the agreement, no toxic waste will be allowed to be dumped in Jordan. The environment department will be following up on the implementation of the provisions of the agreement and will coordinate with the ministries concerned. Sunday's declaration came in line with a stipultion in the agreement that all governments of its signatories should ratify the accord.

Lower House Calls For Reviving 'Eastern Front'

JN1102093490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[By Nirmin Murad, staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Saturday called on the leaders of Jordan, Syria, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to unite their efforts in face of Israeli threats.

"We call on the Arab leaders to unite as leaders and work on our unity as people and land in face of our one enemy Israel," Jarash Deputy Husayn Mujalli said in his proposal to the House to send telegrams to the four leaders.

"Let us adopt a united Arab nationalist position... not contradictory regional positions," Mujalli said in his proposal.

The Lower House voted Saturday in favour of the proposal but the text of the telegrams was not written during Saturday's session.

In essence, the proposal is for the revival of a 33-year-old "Eastern Front" concept. The idea was initiated in 1956 by Jordan, Syria and Egypt but was never implemented because of the tripartite attack on Egypt by France, Britain and Israel.

The idea was revived after the 1967 war and the Eastern Front was then formed by Jordan, Syria and Iraq with its headquarters in Sweda in Syria and was headed by an Iraqi officer. The Eastern Front fell apart in 1973 because of Arab differences.

The House also adopted a proposal tabled by several deputies to send a message to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd condemning the assassination of two Saudi diplomats in Thailand earlier this month.

The two proposals came at the end of Saturday's regular session during which a number of deputies presented the House with "pressing issues" which they felt needed immediate attention. [passage omitted]

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Departs 11 Feb

JN1102183690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister (Hisashi Wada) left Amman this morning at the conclusion of a three-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and a number of senior officials. [passage omitted]

'Awn's Group Opens Fire 9 Feb, Shells Boat

NC0902143390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] It appears that 'Awn and his group have not had enough and have not quenched their thirst for blood. He continues to violate the cease-fires and to torpedo all mediations and efforts being exerted. Today his group resumed its attacks on the peaceful citizens. His group directed sniper fire at the residential areas in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, al-Tahwitah, and al-Dawrah.

Intermittent skirmishes involving automatic weapons and rockets also took place in the area of Nahr al-Kalb at approximately 1000 today.

'Awn has gone even gone further than that in his quest to disrupt the mediation committee's contacts and efforts. Before noon today, his group fired an artillery shell at a boat that was transporting the members of the security and the mediation committees from Beirut to Harisa to meet with Patriarch Sfayr and Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente. Puente has stated that he will leave for Rome this evening for health reasons.

Civilians Killed in Sniper Fire

NC0902130590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] According to the latest security reports available to our radio, intermittent machine gun and rocket fire has been heard for the last two hours along the 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, al-'Adliyah, al-Judaydah, and al-Dawrah fronts. Despite the cease-fire, 'Awn groups continue to open sniper fire in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah neighborhoods. Three civilians, including a man and his wife, were killed by sniper fire.

Skirmishes Reported on Battle Lines

NC0902210690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Skirmishes with light- and medium-caliber machine guns, accompanied occasionally by rockets, have been taking place for some time along the 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, and Furn al-Shubbak battle lines. Flares were also fired tonight from positions in the museum area in the direction of the Hotel Dieu area. Sniper fire has been directed from Badaru against civilian vehicles in the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Rummanah. Similar sniper fire is being directed at areas in the vicinity of al-Tahwitah and al-'Adliyah. This is taking place despite the cease-fire decision.

Mediation Committee Resumes Activities

NC0902144790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Guarded calm has been prevailing in the eastern area of Beirut since this morning following skirmishes involving the use of machine guns and rockets between 'Awn's forces and the Lebanese Forces on the combat lines. However, reports from the area speak of massive concentrations of forces along the combat lines in Beirut and its suburbs and the al-Dubayyah-Nahr al-Kalb front. [passage omitted]

The eastern area mediation committee resumed its activities today. The committee members visited Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr and Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente and briefed them on the results of the committee's activities and on the agreement it reached yesterday. The Lebanese Forces have announced their acceptance of the agreement, but Michel 'Awn has not responded. This has been interpreted as a rejection of the agreement.

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached; Violations Reported

Agreement Reached 10 Feb

NC1002155190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1543 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Dear listeners: The Voice of Lebanon has learned that as a result of the contacts carried out by the tripartite mediation committee, agreement was reached to observe a cease-fire at 1745 today.

'Awn Forces Disregard Cease-Fire

NC1002162690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1619 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's group is continuing its security violations in more than one area, in disregard of the cease-fire which was declared at 1745 today.

We were informed a short time ago that clashes are continuing in the areas of Darayya, al-Qula'yat and its surroundings, al-Dawrah, Nahr al-Mawt, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, and al-'Adliyah.

'Fierce' Fighting in E. Beirut

NC1002070190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Fierce fighting has been raging between the 'Awn groups and the Lebanese Forces along the combat lines of Darayya, al-Qulay'at, and 'Ajaltun since 0600. Artillery, heavy-caliber machine guns, and tanks are being used in the clashes, and both sides are attempting to infiltrate.

Clashes Continue in Eastern Areas

NC1002111090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Fierce clashes involving tanks and heavy artillery are continuing on the Darayya, al-Qulay'at, and 'Ajaltun combat lines between forces loyal to 'Awn and the

Lebanese Forces. During the clashes, both sides attempted to penetrate each other's lines.

Tension continues to prevail on the al-Dubayyah-Nahr al-Kalb and 'Ayn al-Rummanah-Furn al-Shubbak fronts where clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets are taking place.

Lebanese Forces media hinted that the continued fighting will jeopardize the cease-fire, noting that the members of the security committee have been informed of the cease-fire violations.

Meanwhile, the exodus from the eastern area to West Beirut, the South, and al-Biqa' via the Museum-al-Barbir crossing point is continuing. Moreover, hundreds of residents of the eastern area have gathered at the Museum-Al-Barbir crossing point to get supplies of bread, vegetables, and other essential commodities.

Army Headquarters Shelled

NC1002154690 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT l0 Feb 90

[Text] Clashes resumed between the Lebanese Army and the so-called Lebanese Forces on the 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Badaru combat lines at approximately 1630 today. Various types of automatic weapons, artillery, and rockets are being used in the fighting. Explosions can be clearly heard in various parts of the capital and its suburbs.

General 'Awn's radio has reported that the army command headquarters in al-Yarzah is being subjected to violent artillery shelling.

'Awn Forces Halt Attack

NC1002153790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces have repulsed a series of assaults that 'Awn's groups have been launching against al-Qulay'at from their positions in Darayya since this morning. 'Awn's forces suffered tremendous losses of life and equipment and were consequently forced to halt their attacks. Some time ago, these forces began fleeing the battle site leaving behind large numbers of their vehicles. The sound of artillery shells continues to be heard.

Bombardment, Clashes Continue

NC1002154090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The security situation has remained unsettled in the capital and along the 'Ayn al-Rummanah and al-Tahwitah combat lines. 'Awn's forces continued to direct artillery fire at the residential neighborhoods. Clashes also occurred on the al-Dawrah, al-Judaydah, and Nahr al-Mawt battle lines. The bombardment continues as of this moment. 'Awn's artillery fired shells at al-Ashrafiyah and al-Karantina at 1455 today.

Lebanese Forces Counterattack

NC1002180690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1742 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Statement by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff—read by announcer]

[Text] Exploiting the cease-fire, 'Awn's group launched a sudden attack on the Darayya-al-Qulay'at front at 0500 today. This prompted the Lebanese Forces units to retreat in order to contain the attack. At 1600 today, the Lebanese Forces launched a counterattack during which they expelled 'Awn's group from the positions to which they had advanced, inflicting huge losses of life and equipment on them. 'Awn's group left 15 armored personnel carriers and five tanks on the battlefield. The Lebanese Forces recaptured all their positions in the area.

Elderly Residents Die in Sheling

NC1002142290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Despite the repeated calls to consolidate the cease-fire, 'Awn's group has continued its indiscriminate attacks on residential neighborhoods. Citizen Ya'qub Khalil and his wife died in the Kasrawan village bombardment. The old people's home in 'Awn al-Rummanah was directly hit and seven residents died. The director of the home has asked their families to come and take the bodies.

'Large-Scale Violation' Reported

NC1002105590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] According to the latest security reports, 'Awn cliques opened artillery fire from their 122- and 120-mm artillery emplacements less than one hour ago deep into the al-Ashrafiyah residential neighborhoods and outskirts. This is the area extending from the al-Nahr road and the vicinity of the Hotel Dieu area as far as al-Matahrin, the areas of Sin al-Fil, al-Jisr al-Wati, and as far as al-Karantina. The reports also spoke of clashes in the areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, al-'Adliyah, al-Dawrah, al-Judaydah, and al-Bawshariyah. This large-scale violation of the cease-fire agreement by the 'Awn group followed the morning offensive along the Darayya-'Ajaltun-al-Qulay'at axis, where artillery, armored, and infantry battalions were involved. According to a report received a short while ago, fighting along that axis is still in progress.

Lebanese Forces Issue Statement

NC1002112190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces' General Staff in Beirut on 10 February]

[Text] At 0500 this morning, Saturday 10 February, 'Awn cliques stationed in Darayya attempted to advance toward al-Qulay'at. Our fighting units in al-Qulay'at confronted them and forced them to retreat after having inflicted heavy losses of life and equipment upon them. The fighting in the outskirts of al-Qulay'at is still in progress. This was preceded by random bombardment of the defenseless inhabitants in the villages of Kasrawan as well as the residential neighborhoods around the building housing the Lebanese Forces' Command Headquarters. Since 0200 this morning and as of now, fire has been reported along the 'Ayn al-Rummanah-Chevrolet axis.

In another development, a responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has issued the following statement:

Intensive efforts are being exerted to stabilize the cease-fire and to stop this destructive all-out war. 'Awn and his cliques repeatedly promised to abide by the cease-fire, the latest having been agreed upon yesterday during the meeting held at the patriarchiate's seat in Bkirki. At Bkiri, a public pledge was made and written in the minutes of the meeting before the papal nuncio, Patriarch Sfayr, and the mediation committee members. The pledge was to abide by the cease-fire, to stop the military operations, and not to move any soldier from his position. Despite this, however, this morning 'Awn surprised the villages of Kasrawan by launching a wide-scale offensive against the Darayya-al-Qulay'at axis. Taking advantage of the truce, 'Awn made a desperate attempt to make an advance. 'Awn artillery shelled the residential areas surrounding the Lebanese Forces Command's Headquarters.

We place these facts before His Holiness John Paul II, His Beatitude Patriarch Sfayr, French President Francois Mitterrand, Lebanese and foreign public opinion, and all parties interested in finding an end to this war, which was triggered by 'Awn, who is adamant on continuing it until the last Christian.

LF Forces' Violations

NC1002115990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The pro-'Awn radio has accused the Lebanese Forces [LF] of intermittently firing shells and rockets at the positions of forces loyal to 'Awn and at residential neighborhoods in northern al-Matn coast, Beirut, and Kasrawan areas, particularly Bikfayya, Darayya, and al-Qulay'at. The radio said that cease-fire violations by the Ja'ja' gunmen have increased since this morning.

In a statement issued today, the al-Yarzah command accused the Lebanese Forces of blowing up a bridge on the Bikfayya-al-Qulay'at road and making quick troop movements to isolate and encircle one of the pro-'Awn military units in the area. The statement added that the 'Awn forces were compelled to take some limited, protective measures to prevent being isolated or encircled.

Ja'ja' Comments on 'Awn Violations

NC1002141690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Statement by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' on 10 February; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Commenting on 'Awn's violations, the most recent one along the Darayya-al-Qulay'at front today, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has made the following statement:

Despite the announcement that the mediation committee reached an agreement and the security committee in Bkirki pledged that it would be observed, today the eastern area was the scene of a major cease-fire violation when General 'Awn attempted to provoke the situation in upper Kasrawan. By violating the cease-fire and pursuing his war to abolish the Lebanese Forces and destroy the eastern area, Gen 'Awn is trying to finish off all the free forces, whether they are the Lebanese Forces or the Lebanese Army, and is making room for foreign intervention, which the eastern area paid a heavy price to avert.

In another development, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Ja'ja' addressed an appeal to fellow officers and soldiers in the Lebanese Army saying: In spite of the fact that you have been dragged into a war on a different territory than you pledged to liberate, a war in which you have found yourselves fighting against brothers instead of against the armies you have sworn by your military honor to fight and silence; despite all this, you will always remain comrades along the same path and brothers who share the same blood that is mixed with the dear soil. I will not permit myself for a single moment to consider any of you an enemy or foe, rather, I would like to assure each and every one of you that I am always ready to help, support, and stand beside you.

O officers, soldiers, and comrades, it is your duty now to absolutely refuse to fight your fellow soldiers in the Lebanese Forces. Your military honor calls on you to revolt against the orders of a man whose only concern is to sit on the throne of lust for power, even if it is at the expense of your children, relatives, and future. Rebelling against orders given by one individual to achieve personal gains is sheer patriotism. Dr Ja'ja' added: Spare your precious blood, energy, and efforts for the true battle, the true enemy, and the sake of Lebanon's future, the future of your children, dignity, and freedom.

O brothers, I call on you soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers to reject this absurd war by immediately leaving and coming with your heads high and your dignity preserved, so that you can reorganize your ranks and arrange your affairs. You are the nucleus of the free and committed Lebanese Army. You are the mainstay of tomorrow's Lebanon, and therefore, you will be welcomed and loved when you follow your Lebanese Army officers and soldiers who have decided to end one individual's domination, pledged sacrifice, and declared faith in the homeland, in Lebanon. Long live Lebanon.

[Signed] Samir Ja'ja'

Ja'ja' on Resumption of Fighting

JN1002194090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1724 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' by correspondent Yusuf Dakkash; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dakkash] Dr Ja'ja', what about the military situation now? It seems that a new front has come ablaze on the border of Al- Matn and Kasrawan.

[Ja'ja'] Following the cease-fire that was supervised by the tripartite committee comprising Shakir abu-Sulayman, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Bishop Khalil Abi-Nadir, we were surprised this morning by an attack by the 'Awn forces on the Bikfayya-Darayya axis and in the direction of Al-Qulay'at and 'Ajaltun. Although this attack came as a surprise, the Lebanese Forces [LF] forward positions repulsed the attack. Very fierce clashes are now taking place on the perimeters of Al-Qulay'at and 'Ajaltun. The flagrant violation of the cease-fire and the resumption of offensive operations by Gen Michel 'Awn makes one believe he has a plan to destroy Lebanese cities and villages, one village after the other. After destroying Nahr al-Mawt, Al-Dawrah, Al-Nab'ah, Burj Hammud, [word indistinct] Al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, Al-Tahwitah, Chevrolet, [words indistinct]. The time has come for destroying the villages in upper Al-Matn and Kasrawan. Today, 'Ajaltun, Rayfun, Al-Qulay'at, and nearby villages were destroyed today, not to mention [words indistinct] Himlaya and Al-Mayassah.

[Dakkash] What is the military objective of this offensive?

[Ja'ja'] The military objective is an attempt to penetrate the LF lines.

[Dakkash] You spoke about an agreement that was reached thanks to the many mediations. Reference has also been made to some political points. What about this agreement and what are the points on which agreement was reached and the points of difference?

[Ja'ja'] Agreement was reached on five major points. The most important points deal with ceasing fire, the declaration by all parties that there are no intentions to terminate the LF, the declaration by all that they abide by the Lebanese principles, word indistinct] agreement not to harm Lebanon's sovereignty and the political equations in Lebanon, and the proclamation by all that they intend to form a a national authority [marja'iyyah] because it is impermissible to leave matters [words indistinct].

[Dakkash] You have agreed to all these points?

[Ja'ja'] [words indistinct] suddenly, and without any justification, and after that the security committee members left yesterday in the hope that they will meet again at 0900, we were surprised at 0530 today with this attack which is currently raging on the Bikfayya-Al-Qulay'at-'Ajaltun axis.

[Dakkash] Dr Ja'ja', you have addressed many appeals to the French president and to the pope. Will you address appeals to halt the fighting to other parties?

[Ja'ja'] I seize this opportunity you have given me today to address an appeal to his holiness the pope and to tell him that he has always protected the Christians in Lebanon, and that he has always spared no efforts to safeguard their safety, tranquillity, and their security. I would like to tell him that the Christians' security is now seriously threatened, and this time not by outside enemies, or by radical groups. This time the Chrisitians' security is threatened by Gen 'Awn. Gen 'Awn is liquidating the Christians, one village after the other. I appeal to His Holiness the Pope, in view of the leverage he has, to undertake all the necessary contacts to end this bloodshed, and prevent the Christians from being killed.

[Dakkash] Dr Ja'ja', would you like to appeal only to His Holiness the Pope, or would you like to address appeals to other sides, which are perhaps closer?

[Ja'ja'] The other sides are President Mitterrand and the French people, who always have been very close to our hearts, who have always sympathized with us. I would like to address a new appeal to them to intervene immediately with all possible means to stop the massacre against the Christians, and to check the attacks against Christian villages.

[Dakkash] Dr Ja'ja', have your received offers of assistance?

[Ja'ja'] We have received many offers, but we do not need any assistance.

[Dakkash] As for the upcoming developments, Dr Ja'ja', how do you envisage the upcoming hours or days?

[Ja'ja'] If Gen 'Awn remains determined to persist in his destructive and suicidal policy, I expect that the upcoming hours and days will be very difficult, very difficult. If some parties, particularly His Holiness the Pope, President Mitterrand, the French Government, and the French people manage to put pressure on Gen 'Awn to make him stop at a certain point, negotiations on a serious cease-fire would then be possible and serious talks designed to put the situation in east Beirut areas in order would then begin.

[Dakkash] Dr Ja'ja', let us summarize all that has been said. You are accusing Gen 'Awn of violating the cease-fire today and appealing to both the Pope and President Mitterrand.

[Ja'ja'] Yes, yes. I am not accusing Gen 'Awn. This is not an accusation. This is a fact. This a fact and a reality. I hope that you will ask the members of the tripartite committee comprising [Shakir] Abu-Sulayman, Abbot [Bulus] Nu'man, and Bishop Khalil Abi-Nadir, as they can tell you who violated the cease-fire today. For six hourse, they could not speak with Gen 'Awn. They attempted to contact him to bring about a cease-fire, but to no avail.

[Dakkash] How is the morale of the LF fighters, Dr Ja'ja'?

[Ja'ja'] Very good, very good. The LF fighters are fighting the most honorable battles, considering the battles that they have fought during the past 15 years. Regrettably, this is not the proper place for waging battles. However, we were forced to wage these battles here. We and they are fighting this battle demonstrating exemplary courage. As a matter of fact, they are inflicting on 'Awn's army, which is also our army, huge losses and preventing it from advancing, okay [last word in English].

[Dakkash] If a cease-fire agreement is reached, how would you envisage a future relationship with Gen 'Awn in east Beirut?

[Ja'ja'] Between you and me, I cannot envision how this relationship would be, considering the nature of Gen 'Awn and his crimes. But, what concerns us at present is to see a cease-fire initiated so that residents may remain alive, so that east Beirut may survive, so that villages may be spared, and so that the community may be spared. When such a thing materializes, we will see how we are to deal with this man.

[Dakkash] We know that Gen 'Awn wants from you an unequivocal answer on the LF's stand vis-a-vis the al-Ta'if agreement. As for me as a journalist, I would also like to know the LF's stand toward the al-Ta'if agreement.

[Ja'ja'] First of all, I explained our stand on the al-Ta'if agreement and all the other issues in an extensive manner at the news conference I held two days ago. Second, no matter what our stand is on the al-Ta'if agreement, what has Gen 'Awn got to do with us on this issue? Is it permissible to use tanks, heavy artillery, and the army with all its weapons to settle, or to try to settle a political matter. Third, the pretexts being advanced by Gen 'Awn are groundless. We were the first to confront the Syrians and we were the first [words indistinct] through his behavior, Gen 'Awn will soon open the door for the Syrians to allow them to enter the free areas. Gen 'Awn has vacated all of his fronts and used all of his armies to confront the LF. Hence, he is sending a clear invitation to the Syrians to enter these areas. I hold Gen 'Awn responsible for any breaching that might take place in east Beirut. I would like to say a last word to the Lebanese, the Arabs, and the entire world. We will continue to defend ourselves to the finish. To defend ourselves is tantamount to defending freedom in Lebanon. The problem is no longer confined to one of occupations. We were confronting a problem pertaining to occupations. Now, the problem concerns foreign occupations and freedom. We will not accept dictatorship in Lebanon. We will not accept dictatorship in Lebanon, especially in east Beirut. As long as Gen 'Awn persists in his attempts to control everything in east Beirut, we will continue to confront him to the finish.

[Dakkash] This means that the prospects for reaching an agreement are not encouraging.

[Ja'ja'] This depends on Gen 'Awn. This depends on Gen 'Awn.

Sfayr Appeals for Cease-Fire

NC1002101590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr has issued an appeal for a cease-fire saying: Failing to contact the concerned officials, we had to resort to the media to renew our urgent appeal for consolidating the cease-fire and enabling the security committee to resume its work. In his appeal, Sfayr added: The citizens can endure no further suffering. Out of mercy for them and in response to the humanitarian endeavors, stop fighting immediately.

Papal Nunciature Appeals

NC1002184890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Clashes involving various types of weapons continued in al-Dubayyah, Nahr al-Kalb, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, al-Dawrah, al-Judaydah, and Nahr al-Mawt in the eastern area this evening. The cease-fire that was announced at 1445 has collapsed.

The Lebanese Forces media have accused 'Awn's forces of violating the cease-fire and of shelling areas in Kasrawan, hitting al-Kaslik University and killing a priest and injuring many other people.

Residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Karantinah, and Kasrawan were shelled this evening.

Meanwhile, the charge d'affaires at the papal nunciature has addressed a messsage to Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' and former army commander General Michel 'Awn, asking them to cease fire and to observe the agreement that was recently reached under the auspices of the papal nuncio in Lebanon.

Overnight Clashes in Eastern Area

NC1102091890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Tension prevails in the eastern areas despite the announcement of a new cease-fire decision that went into effect at 2300 yesterday. Limited bursts of gunfire were heard overnight and clashes took place on some fronts, while shells fell in residential neighborhoods in al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Dawrah, Nahr al-Mawt, and the Kasrawan area. Security sources said today that the two sides are reinforcing their positions as a precaution against the possibility of any large-scale security flare up.

Security Committee Fails To Meet

NC1102183590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Great anxiety and tension continued to prevail in the eastern areas today after the real intentions of the party that declared the war to abolish the Lebanese Forces were exposed. After torpedoing a meeting of the security committee, General 'Awn exploited the fragile cease-fire today to reinforce his positions with vehicles and personnel, especially on the Darayya-al-Qulay'at front. 'Awn's group is intermittently shelling the Lebanese Forces on this front, as well as on some combat lines in Beirut, particularly in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, Furn al-Shubbak, and the fringes of al-Ashrafiyah.

According to the latest security reports, intermittent clashes are taking place in the Nahr al-Mawt, (al-Salumi), Badaru, Furn al-Shubbak, al-Tahwitah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and upper Kasrawan areas. Meanwhile, 'Awn's group is concentrating vehicles in upper Kasrawan.

'Awn torpedoed a security committee meeting today by insisting on discussing political matters rather than security affairs and the living conditions that concern the citizens. Meanwhile, the mediation committee has called for the consolidation of the cease-fire and an end to the citizens' sufferings.

'Awn, Ja'ja' Said To Prepare for Battle

NC0902164290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's radio station has reported that army positions in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Dawrah, al-Ashrafiyah, Adma, and the coastal areas of al-Matn and Kasrawan are coming under intensive sniper fire from Lebanese Forces positions. The radio said that clashes occurred in 'Ayn al-Rummanah between groups of gunmen because some of them wanted to throw down their arms and join 'Awn's army. It added that the clashes left several gunmen injured.

AP reported that 'Awn and Ja'ja' are massing troops in Kasrawan in preparation for a major battle. The agency said that the Lebanese Forces engineering corps has blocked the Nahr al-Kalb tunnel and laid mines in it in order to prevent an advance by 'Awn's tanks which are currently deployed in the surrounding hills.

AFP reported that the Lebanese Forces are holding 800 army troops in Jubayl out of the total of 1,500 soldiers it has captured since the beginning of the fighting against 'Awn's forces. The agency noted that some of the captured troops have family ties with Lebanese Forces members. We wish to note that 'Awn's forces have also captured hundreds of the Lebanese Forces fighters.

'Awn Forces Prepare Offensive

NC1202075090 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpts] According to security sources, the army has massed combat units and dozens of tanks and rocket launchers on the al-Matn-Kasrawan front. The sources added that preparations are under way for launching a major offensive toward the Kasrawan and Jubayl regions. The same sources noted that General 'Awn wants to advance toward 'Asqut to capture Harisa and have his troops join up with the commando force deployed around the Adma airbase in Juniyah. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Sulayman Tony Franjiyah yesterday lashed out at the Lebanese Forces, accusing them of championing partitionist plans and of bringing tragedy on the Christians under the pretext of defending them. Franjiyah affirmed that he is against the Lebanese Forces in the current fighting, noting that his stand has always been in favor of a united army and against using this army for personal objectives.

'Awn Forces' Violations Continue

NC1202094390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] According to the latest security reports, 'Awn's groups are carrying out limited cease-fire violations in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Badaru, al-Tahwitah, al-'Adliyah, al-Dawrah, al-Bawshariyah, and Nahr al-Mawt.

Reports from the Kasrawan and al-Matn hills have said that military concentrations belonging to 'Awn's groups were monitored in the Bikfayya and the Rumyah-Darayya areas yesterday afternoon and this morning.

'Awn Reportedly Not To 'Obstruct' Al-Ta'if Accord

NC1202151490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1450 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] It was disclosed today that 'Awn recently sent a message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi. In his letter, he asserted that he is prepared to reach an understanding with the legitimate government to establish a system that is more developed than the al-Ta'if formula. He stressed that he will not obstruct the al-Ta'if accord if the Lebanese people agree with it.

Army Officers Form 'Neutral Command' Under Faris

NC1002130490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] In view of the current massacres resulting from the mistakes of one individual who is putting the entire military establishment in a hazardous situation, a state of unrest within the Army emerged. The Army rejects the absurd war among brothers. This stand materialized in an internal uprising under the name Army's Neutral Command [Qiyadat al-Jaysh al-Muhayidah], which has attracted many Army officers, noncommissioned officers, and personnel.

The Army's neutral forces [quwa al-jaysh al-muhayyidah] in the eastern areas have issued the following statement:

As a result of the tragic conditions in the eastern areas for more than 11 days;

as a result of the failure of all attempts to end the fighting, which if continue will lead to the end of Lebanon;

in view of the deteriorating situation that exists because of General 'Awn's policy;

since continued fighting will inevitably lead to the destruction of the Lebanese Army's military mechanism, which we have always strived and fought to build;

based on our belief that the internal struggle is not in anyone's interest, but will only destroy everyone in the free areas in particular and in Lebanon in general;

because we have sworn allegiance to the homeland and not to one individual;

and based on all this, a group of Army officers from the free areas has decided the following:

1. To not get involved in the ongoing struggle in the free areas;

2. To call on all the Lebanese Army's officers and soldiers who are against this war to join the Lebanese Army barracks in the district of Jubayl;

3. To set up a provisional command for these forces led by Staff Colonel Paul Faris whose headquarters will be the 'Amshit barracks.

Faris Urges Rejection of 'Awn

NC1002134990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Appeal by Colonel Paul Faris to Lebanese Army officers and soldiers on 10 February—recorded]

[Text] An appeal to the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Lebanese Army in the eastern area. An appeal from the heart to the heart. You know Col Paul Faris and remember the difficult circumstances and days through which we lived together during this war. I know that many of you reject this war and are not convinced of it.

My comrades, we gave General 'Awn all the support, backing, and sacrifices for which he asked. Now it is our right to ask him where he is headed. We have not established the army in order to have its soldiers killed. We have not established it in order to kill our people and to destroy our houses.

I call on you now to immediately get out of the dirty game Gen 'Awn is playing. Reject his orders and immediately join our ranks. I say to every officer, noncommissioned officer, and soldier: The time has come for everyone to go back to his conscience and to decide not to continue fighting and to continue this criminal action. Everyone should choose and bear the consequences of his choice. Leave Gen 'Awn now before it is too late.

To Gen Michel 'Awn I say: You are a criminal general, have committed a crime against your people, and are responsible for all the massacres taking place. The least that you deserve is execution by firing squad.

Reiterates Appeal to Soldiers

NC1102154290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Staff Colonel Paul Faris addressed a new appeal today. We include the appeal in the following recorded dispatch by our correspondent Johnny Munayyir:

[Begin recording] [Munayyir] Staff Col. Paul Faris has assured the Voice of Lebanon that the neutral army forces have started attracting a large number of officers and soldiers. He stated that members of the army's groups in the areas under General Michel 'Awn's influence fled yesterday to join the centers specified by the neutral army forces commmand. They include members of the Qasr Nurah center in Hursh Thabit. Col. Faris accused Gen. 'Awn of destroying the military establishment, stressing that his movement will remain neutral and will not involve the army in any useless conflict. Col. Faris appealed to the men serving in the artillery to adopt a conscientious stand on the ongoing massacres. Wearing battledress, Col. Faris assembled the officers who had joined his command at his office in 'Amshit barracks and began organizing the units and battalions which joined his command. Here is a recording of the interview which Faris gave to the Voice of Lebanon:

[Unidentified correspondent] The step which you took yesterday, Col. Faris, has had a considerable impact in the military estabishment and even had an impact on the current events in the eastern area of Lebanon. Many interpreted your step as some sort of [word indistinct] the army in order to strike at the army with the army. In other words, in order for you to instigate a battle in the army, you formed a new command to strike at Gen 'Awn within the army. Is neutrality and not preparations designed to make those in charge of the military establishment hit each other, the object of the step you have taken?

[Faris] I would like to be clear and frank. Some day I will be hel accountable for what I am going to say. We are absolutely not preparing a military machine to confront the general. All we are doing is withdrawing the soldiers and officers who no longer trust the wisdom and command of Gen. 'Awn and who do not want to participate in the ongoing war. All we are doing is shaking ourselves free of Gen. 'Awn's authority and adopting a neutral position, in every sense of the word. Our aim is to deprive him of the opportunity of exploiting these forces to strike at our country and destroy the people. Gen. 'Awn is destroying the country because he has officers and soldiers and he has the military machine. He has guns and tanks which will be of no use to him if the soldiers and officers leave him. Our goal is that all soldiers who believe in the neutral line and who do not believe in Gen. 'Awn's policy be given an opportunity to come to a safe place and take a neutral stand. We are neutral in the full sense of the word. On this occasion, I would like to stress that Col. Paul Faris is one of the leaders of this initiative and that he is actually voicing the position desired by a large number of officers who are with us. They are the persons who were behind this idea and who adopted it and encouraged me to carry it out. Many officers and soldiers no longer believe in Gen. 'Awn's line of policy. They wanted to leave the game. This is the whole object of my plan.

[Correspondent] We note, Colonel, that even if you want to avoid this battle within the military establishment, Gen. 'Awn will not avoid it. We heard that after the Halat air base announced its support for your step, this base and the surrounding area came under shelling.

[Faris] This is correct. After the air base announced its support for our movement, it was immediately subjected to shelling. 'Awn's forces shelled it again this morning. They created a new problem for us, which is the protection of the aircraft. We are now compelled to find a way to protect the aircraft. I said in my statement that Gen. 'Awn wants to finish off the military machine before he departs. He will not leave us an army. We have four or five planes now which he wants to destroy. We have not declared war against Gen. 'Awn so that he may destroy the planes. Does he have to destroy the planes, just because we said we will take a neutral stand? This is the best proof that his actions are unbalanced. His actions are not those of a responsible man. We are now compelled to find a way to protect the planes and prevent damages.

On this occasion, I wish to address the following appeal to our comrades the artillery officers and men: You young men and gunners, you should know that you are destroying your kinsmen with your own hands. You are destroying your country with your own hands. Wake up to the reality of the dangers you are causing. Gen. 'Awn is destroying the country through you. I call on you to abandon the guns immediately and take refuge in the nearest place where you can hide. If you can cross over and come to my side, then do so before it is too late. You will be welcome. This is a crime against your conscience. You must be alert. I am warning you and telling you that he is using you to destroy the country. Why do we want to destroy the planes and strike at the air base? The air base and the planes are in the eastern area. Why do we want to destroy them? Do not be blind; wake up before it is late. He has destroyed the country. It is now your duty to stop the shelling. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Military Units Join Faris' 'Neutral Command'

7th, 8th Brigade Units

NC1002132290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1208 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] We have received the following from the officers, soldiers, and noncommissioned officers of the [Lebanese Army] Seventh Brigade:

We, the officers, soldiers, and noncommissioned officers of the Seventh Brigade declare that we support and are joining the Army's Neutral Command, under the leadership of Staff Colonel Paul Faris. We absolutely reject this destructive war and call on our comrades in the other army brigades to join our ranks.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1215 GMT on 10 February adds: "I have just received the following statement from the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Eighth Brigade's 82d battalion:

"We the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Eighth Brigade's 82 battalion announce the following:

"Because we realize that heroism is scored on the hills of Suq al-Gharb and not inside the residential neighborhoods, because we maintain that our military heroism scored against the enemies in Suq al-Gharb and on the outside fronts is being destroyed on the inside fronts, and because we refuse to distort our military history and want to remain loyal to the homeland and the people, we announce that we have joined the Army's Neutral Command under Staff Colonel Paul Faris, and we reject the internal fighting. We call on the rest of our comrades in the Eighth Brigade and the other brigades to stop slaughtering our society and join our ranks."]

Halat Air Base Personnel

NC1002154990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] We have received the following from the command, officers, and soldiers of the Halat Air Base: We, the command, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the air base at Halat have been shocked by the devastation which has befallen our homeland in the past few days as a result of the erroneous course chosen for us by General 'Awn. He forgot about our external enemies and turned our army into an instrument with which to destroy our society and himself. We announce that we are joining the Army's Neutral Forces under the command of Staff Colonel Paul Faris. We declare our rejection of internecine fighting. We also call on all our comrades in the Lebanese Army units to join our ranks.

93d Battalion

NC1102103890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops of the Army's 93d Battalion]

[Text] We, the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the 93d Battalion in the free areas were faced with having to choose between two options: to take part in this destructive war, which we refused to do, or to obey General Michel 'Awn's orders to move to the occupied areas. This latter option surprised us, because it exposed a previously unknown feature of the army commander. We have rejected the second option as well and have declared our neutrality, because our task is to protect the borders of the free areas.

Because we believe that the army's mission is to protect society rather than destroy it, we announce the following: First, we are joining the neutral army forces command, under the leadership of Staff Colonel Paul Faris; and second, we reject internal fighting.

We call upon all our comrades in the Lebanese Army units to join our ranks.

More Army Units Join

NC1102144790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Skirmishes are taking place on the 'Ayn al-Rummanah and al-Tahwitah combat lines, with rockets being used from time to time.

In another development, our correspondent in 'Amshit has told us that two military groups joined the army's neutral forces a short time ago. The first arrived two hours ago from the the Fifth Brigade command headquarters in Qasr Nura in Hursh Thabit. The second group, which arrived a short while ago, belongs to the Tenth Brigade's 103d Battalion, which was pulled out from the al-Duwwar front and deployed in the central and coastal areas of northern al-Matn.

3d Al-Ansar Battalion

NC1202154990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The Third Al-Ansar battalion command released the following statement:

We the commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Third Al-Ansar Battalion declare that we have joined the Army's Neutral Command under Staff Colonel Paul Faris. We have taken this step to show our faith in this option's soundness and to express our absolute rejection of the futile, destructive war General 'Awn is waging against our relatives and brothers in the free areas. We affirm that our obligation to unify the legitimate weapons is aimed at serving sublime national goals and not at settling scores inside the free areas.

Army Neutral Command Specifies Assembly Points

NC1002152990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Statement No 2 by the Army's Neutral Forces Command—read by announcer]

[Text] The Army's Neutral Forces Command announces that it has specified points of assembly for military personnel wishing to join its ranks. They are as follows: the 'Amshit barracks in Jubayl; the Sarba barracks in Kasrawan; the Muhammad Nasir barracks of the internal security forces in al-Ju'aytawi for the Beirut area and its suburbs; and the al-Sa'id secondary school building in 'Ayn al-Rummanah for the southern al-Matn area.

The command informs all military personnel who wish to join its ranks that it has coordinated with the Lebanese Forces General Staff regarding the operation of transferring them to the specified points of assembly or taking them to any destination they want.

'Awn Military Police Encircle 5th Brigade HQ

NC1202113090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Travelers from the Hursh Thabit area have told our radio that military police commanded by officer 'Adil Sasin, who belongs to 'Awn's group, have been encircling Hursh Thabit and especially the command headquarters of the Fifth Brigade in Qasr Nura since yesterday afternoon because the brigade's command, officers, and men refuse to join the war. It should be noted that military units of the Fifth Brigade in Qasr Nura yesterday joined the army's neutral forces in the 'Amshit barracks.

'Awn Command Describes Faris as Deserter

NC1002183390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's command has issued a statement announcing that Paul Faris is a deserting officer who was referred to a military court a long time ago. The statement gave a brief biography of Faris, describing him as a (?thief) who has been punished several times for this offense since 1975. The 'Awn command added that Faris has been a member of the Phalangist Party since the year [word indistinct].

Israeli Troop Movements Reported in South

NC0902155690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] According to reports received from the south, Israeli forces supported by tanks and armored vehicles have assembled at the outskirts of Bint Jubayl and some other villages in the central sector. It was also learned that a mechanized force has advanced toward the hills overlooking the al-Hasbani River basin. It then combed the area with helicopter support.

2 Resistance Operations Reported in South

NC0902182990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The National Resistance Front announced that one of its units detonated an explosive device under an Israeli patrol that was travelling between Tayr Harfa and al-Jibbayn early today, scoring a direct hit.

The occupation forces immediately raked the area with heavy machine guns and brought in a number of helicopters which were seen evacuating casualties to the occupied territories.

The Lebanese Resistance Groups-Amal announced that the Martyr Ahmad Yusuf 'Illay unit attacked the enemy and agents position in al-Shumariyah with machine guns and rockets. The unit engaged the position's guards for 10 minutes and succeeded in scoring direct hits and destroying the observation tower. The occupation forces immediately fired flares and shelled Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, the al-Litani River, and Jisr al-Qa'qa'iyah with mortars. The unit returned safely to base.

'Awn Aide Urges New Initiative by Saudi King

NC0902164890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Al-Yarzah's ['Awn's Army command] media have reported that 'Awn's aide 'Isam Abu-Jamrah [member of 'Awn's council of ministers] has addressed an appeal to Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz urging him to make a courageous initiative that will rectify the Arab tripartite committee's activity in a way that will guarantee the retraction of every stand or measure that is demonstrated to be inadequate to fulfill the desired results. He drew the Saudi king's attention to the fact that it is not yet too late to rescue Lebanon and to save the Arab initiative from the manipulators who have distorted it and caused it to deviate from its original course.

Abu-Jamrah also called on the Saudi king to cease his efforts regarding the al-Ta'if agreement.

Beirut Security Plan Postponed; UK Officers Visit

NC1202124090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Citing informed sources in West Beirut, QNA has reported that the Lebanese Army command has decided to postpone implementing the security plan for West Beirut. QNA said that General Emile Lahhud recently met a number of commanders of Lebanese Army brigades and battalions to discuss political and technical issues related to the West Beirut security plan.

Gen Lahhud ordered that the highest level of preparedness be maintained for possibile intervention in East Beirut if the political leadership requests such intervention to save lives and unify the country.

QNA also cited its correspondent as saying that the West Beirut security plan will be implemented by the officers and soldiers of the internal security forces. Lebanese Army units will be ready to offer any military assistance necessary either alone or in cooperation with the Syrian Arab forces.

Citing informed sources in East Beirut, QNA also reported that the British Government sent two military officers to East Beirut to assess the military situation in the area during the fighting between the Lebanese Forces and former Army Commander Michel 'Awn. These sources told the QNA correspondent that the two British officers, a colonel and a lieutenant colonel in British military intelligence, left Beirut 24 hours ago via Juniyah port in East Beirut and will submit a report to British authorities. The sources added that the British military team stayed at the British Embassy in East Beirut. The sources expect that this report will contribute to a reassessment of British policy toward Lebanon.

Daily on 'Legitimate Government' Intervention

NC1002093290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] AL-SAFIR, citing diplomatic reports, today reveals that extensive contacts between Beirut, Damascus, and Washington are under way regarding readiness to handle new developments in due time. The reports affirm that in principle, the legitimate government has made a decision regarding intervention to end the bloody and abnormal situation. Currently, a political-military working team is monitoring the situation. The team is tasked with setting the zero hour for any necessary step, particularly if new violence breaks out, thus threatening the people.

Press reports speak of French-Vatican cooperation between the French envoy [not further identified] and the papal nuncio to persuade General 'Awn not to continue fighting to the end, because this could lead to international intervention to resolve the matter.

Al-Hirawi Requests Support To End Situation

NC1002164290 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has contacted the Vatican, France, the United States, and the capitals of the tripartite Arab committee member states and discussed the latest developments in the Lebanese situation with their officials. He again called for support for the efforts the legitimate authorities are making to put an end to what is happening.

For his part, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has telephoned Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the tripartite Arab committee's envoy, to discuss the latest developments in the Lebanese situation and ways of remedying it.

Meanwhile, French Minister of State Bernard Kouchner visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss today and briefed them on the results of his mission. Kouchner later said: I am leaving Lebanon but I will return whenever the need arises. However, I hope that the next time I come there will not be any need for such a mission.

Al-Hirawi Prepares 'To Confront' Escalation

NC1002175590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] QNA cites sources in Beirut, which it describes as highly placed, as saying that President al-Hirawi and the Lebanese Government have adopted several political and military measures to confront any new military escalation in the eastern area.

The sources added that in the last six hours al-Hirawi has carried out consultations with Washington, Paris, and Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi on the legitimate Lebanese Government's views on future conditions in Lebanon in general and East Beirut in particular. The sources stated that, during its recent contacts, the Lebanese state voiced concern over the possibility that the fighting might spread to new areas in East Beirut, given that 'Awn is seeking to take control of all the areas there.

Junblatt Escapes Assassination 3 Feb

NC1002152090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] In a dispatch from Rashayya in western al-Biqa', AFP reports that Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt escaped an assassination attempt last week. His motorcade passed the Majdal 'Anjar road junction last Saturday [3 February] moments before a booby-trapped car exploded at the site. The agency adds that the Syrian forces arrested three gunmen, including the driver of the booby-trapped car. They are Lebanese nationals from the township of Kamid al-Lawz in al-Biqa'.

Junblatt Assails Deputies, Arab Officials

NC0902145590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Excerpts] On the first anniversary of the martyrdom of patriotic struggler Anwar al-Fatayiri, a nationalist voice rose in B'aqlin today. The voice was that of Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt.

Junblatt said: If the initiative had succeeded, there would have been no liberation war. There is a war of annihilation and destruction today. However, they have killed Anwar and the initiative. The blood of the innocent has flowed in the east and the west. No one can say at this moment that the war has ended. In order for the war to end, despite the wounds, tears, and suffering, all of us must reach the necessary conclusions and the appropriate lessons so that the criminals may not be given absolution and so that we may not consequently be subjected to the plot of displacement, settlement, and replacement and the last bastions of the homeland in Lebanon may not be destroyed. For this reason we say:

1. Christian extremism has fallen forever and the only alternative is the liberated, secular, democratic current to rescue the Christians in the east and Lebanon. [passage omitted] No Christian official can now hesitate, speak vaguely, or maintain silence.

2. All sectarian solutions have fallen. Every sectarian solution has only fragmented the homeland and the communities and even the mother community.

3. The political class of 1943 has fallen—that decadent and filthy scum of deputies in Paris hotels and the statues and [word indistinct] in the administration and the army and other sectarian and religious clubs. [passage omitted]

The best example of the deputies in Paris is the hesitant and retreating Goerge Sa'adaah. What is his position on the al-Ta'if agreement and the Phalangist Party? He used to make ringing speeches, but now he has run away when he should take responsibility. As for the rotten, filthy scum, there is so much to say about it. They deserve to be killed. I will not mention names but their punishment will be harsh.

4. The army has fallen for good with regard to internal security in the east and the west. Therefore, the army should return to the barracks and then sent to south Lebanon in order to prevent Lebanon from being turned into a substitute for Palestine before it is too late. The Arab contributions in Lebanon have also fallen and they will only lead to Lebanon's destruction and being drowned in blood and fire. I will never forget the stand some members of the accursed Arab six-member committee adopted—the stand of the Arab League secretary general and of the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. O Tariq 'Aziz and Lakhdar Ibrahimi: Will the accumulated funds in the general's accounts in Paris and elsewhere be

sufficient to reconstruct what has been destroyed and revive the dead? Or are fresh arms and ammunition being shipped?

As for the Arab press, and specifically the Lebanese press, in Kuwait, Lebanon, and Paris, it also fell when it covered up the crime as it was being prepared and propagandized for the general. How could it not have propagandized for the general when the word is captive of money and money comes from the rulers who are sitting on thrones made up of skulls studded with golden ignots. [passage omitted]

The issue of liberation of the [Palestine] Liberation Organization has also fallen—the organization that rewards Kamal Junblatt's party and the Lebanese Arab people with booby-trapped cars and an unmatched rancor.

Finally, some members of the [Progressive Socialist] Party have also fallen and they have not yet understood that they no longer have any political or intellectual value and must go even if they gained some votes in the elections. The party that has offered Kamal Junblatt and Anwar al-Fatayiri will not accept those who are not men enough in its ranks. [passage omitted].

Shams-al-Din in Damascus for Talks

NC0802153190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the higher Shiite Islamic council, left for Damascus today. He will meet with senior Syrian officials to discuss the general situation in Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Kabul Blames Kashmir 'Crisis' on Pakistan

BK1002153290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 10 (AFP)—The Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan Saturday [10 February] blamed the crisis in Kashmir on Pakistani interference and accused Islamabad of basing its foreign policy on meddling in its neighbours' internal affairs.

"The position of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with the events in Jammu and Kashmir is completely clear. It is the result of plots, interference and conspiracies of the government of Pakistan which is increasingly becoming a springboard for intervention against its neighbours," a statement released to the foreign press by the External Affairs Ministry said.

The statement went on to say that interference in the affairs of its neighbours had become the Pakistan Government's "main policy," and said Afghanistan supported India's "efforts to ensure her territorial integrity and national sovereignty."

The statement also said the government had "authentic information" that Pakistan was providing facilities for "anti-Indian" elements in Kashmir, and added that some supplies and arms destined for the war in Afghanistan had been "secretly smuggled" into Indian territory.

"We believe our neighbour India is capable of settling the problem herself," said the statement, which was to be read on state radio and television.

Non-aligned India has close ties with the regime in Kabul, and maintained full diplomatic ties here during the 10-year-long Soviet occupation of the country, despite reservations about the invasion.

Pakistan is the base of the mujahidin alliance of seven resistance parties, and since the Soviet troop withdrawal one year ago this week, Kabul has blamed Pakistan and the United States for being "the foreign aggressors" and accused them of violating the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan under which Kabul and Islamabad pledged non-interference in one another's internal affairs.

An estimated three million refugees who fled Afghanistan during the occupation are still in camps in Pakistan, while another two million are in Iran.

Baker-Shevardnadze Talks of 'Great Importance'

LD1002065590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 9, BAKHTAR—A BAKHTAR commentator writes that the talks started on Feb 8, 1990 in Moscow between Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR foreign affairs minister with his American counter part, James Baker, which forms the political solution of the Afghan problem as its main part, is of great importance for the Afghan people, because it could accelerate process of peace in the Afghan land.

Despite that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) for the restoration of peace in the country, has already set forth peaceful proposals and a specific mechanism, but the USA and Pakistan have not paid any heed to them that's why the fratricidal war is going on in the land of Afghans. [sentence as received]

Pakistan and the US who have so far violated the Geneva accords launched their attacks, after the pull out of the Soviet forces, on Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar, Zabol and other corners of Afghanistan.

If Pakistan and the US took the side of honesty and realism the Afghan issue would have been tackled long ago. Now, Afghans follow with much interest the Moscow talks without doubt any measure which realistically help cessation of war in Afghanistan will be welcomed by the Afghans.

Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) during recent press conference with the foreign journalists said that "cutting of arms delivery ought to be dealt as a complex matter. Besides, cutting of armament is not enough at all and can not be confined to the US and the Soviet Union alone. All the countries must refrain delivery of arms to the warring sides".

For reaching this goal, it is necessary that the basic lines of the RA proposed mechanism which in reality ensures peace in the country, must be observed.

The RA Government has tried and trys hard for political solution of the Afghan issue.

President Najibullah has also stressed in the latest press conference that "simultaneous with the stopping of delivery of arms to warring sides, war operations should be also stopped, cease-fire be observed, and all arms stockpiled in Afghanistan be evacuated under the auspices of the UNO representative. Besides by giving authentic legal and international guarantees, attention be paid to the demilitarization of Afghanistan".

Thus the RA proposal and mechanism can guarantee stopping of arms to the concerned sides, cessation of war and ensurance of peace in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Congratulates Iran on Revolution

LD1002180490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] A message of congratulations has been sent to Tehran from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to His Excellency 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occaison of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of that country, with the following text:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Dear Brother, His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On behalf of the Muslim people of the Republic of Afghanistan and myself, I am pleased to express to you, esteemed brother, and through you to the Muslim and brother people of Iran, my best wishes and congratulations on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan want prosperity, welfare, and blossoming for their neighboring brothers of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We hope peace and security will be established in the world, and in particular, in our region. Using this opportunity, I wish from Almighty God good health and further successes to you, esteemed brother.
[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

According to another report, a message of congratulations was sent to Tehran from 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to His Excellency Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Najibullah Sends Messages to Warsaw, Sofia

LD1002040190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 8, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC) has sent today a congratulatory message to Sofia addressed to Aleksandur Vasili Lilov, on his election as chairman of the Supreme Council of the Communist Party of Bulgaria.

Also, the Afghan leader has sent a congratulatory message to Warsaw today addressed to Aleksander Kwasniewski, chairman of the supreme board of the Social Democratic Party of the Polish Republic and Leszek Shrik Miller, general secretary of the Executive Committee of that party on their elections to the said posts.

The messages express the hope that the friendly relations existing between the peoples and parties of the RA and Bulgaria as well as those of the RA and Poland will be further strengthened in the future.

Najibullah Addresses Military on Future Duties

LD1002041490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 8, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces today received the leadership organ of the General Dept of the Political Affairs of the Armed Forces, political activists of the contingents and detachments of centre and of the Kabul Garrison in Gol Khanah Presidential Palace, reported a BAKHTAR military reporter.

During the meeting Gen. 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, secretary of the Supreme Council for the Defence of Country and Gen. Zabiullah Ziarmal, general president of the Armed Forces Political Affairs [Department], were also present.

President Najibullah while speaking on the international situation, politico-military situation in Afghanistan and gains achieved by the Armed Forces during the one year of the independently defence from the independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country specified future duties and responsibilities of the political activists of the Armed Forces in relation to the defence of the country and realisation of the national reconciliation policy in the RA.

Then Najibullah, responded to the question of the participants to the session as well.

Najibullah Awards Medal to 'Hero, Pilot'

LD1102174790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces, received this afternoon Brigadier General Ghulam Mustafa, hero and pilot of the Republic of Afghanistan, and pinned on his chest the Golden Star medal which had previously been issued by a separate presidential decree in recognition of his outstanding services.

BAHKTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that during the presentation of the medal, Major General 'Abdul Bagi, head of the department of Defense and National Security of the President's Office, was also present.

BAKHTAR Details 6-8 Feb Military Operations

LD1002041190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 8, BAKHTAR—The extremists supported by Pakistan took under their sporadic heavy fire some frontlines and security posts of the Armed Forces and a number of the Khowst city suburbs during the past 3 days, a BAKHTAR military correspondent quoted an authorised military source today. The armed force retaliated and cleared 72 extremists from the battle scenes.

The source further added that contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province shunned down attacks of the enemy on the Samar Kheyl, Behsud, Sorkh Rud, Kan wa Katarghai [placename as received] and some security posts in Jalalabad. In return during the heavy artillery and air attacks of the armed forces 31 enemies were rooted out. Three civilians were killed and two others were wounded as well.

According to another report the Farah garrison in its mopping up operations carried out in the surroundings of that province on February 6, 1990, seized 17 ground to ground rockets, a howitzer, and a large number of weapons of the enemy.

Also, in order to prevent subversive activities of the enemy, contingents and detachments of the Kabul garrison conducted a mopping up operation in the environs of Kabul during the past 24 hours. As a result of which 44 extremists were killed and 18 others wounded. Three vehicles loaded with armaments were destroyed.

Extremists active in the southern corner of Kabul sustained remarkable human and material losses.

India

Security Forces Fire on 'Crowd' at Kashmir Border

BK1202005490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0039 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday that around 1730 [1200 GMT] in the evening, a crowd of people from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir tried to cross the line of actual control into Jammu and Kashmir in the Uri sector. Indian security forces warned them and later fired shots in the air. The crowd retreated, but came back again around 1810 [1240 GMT]. They refused to go back in spite of repeated warnings. Warning shots were then fired in the air, but the crowd did not withdraw. The security forces then had to open fire to prevent the crowd from advancing further across the line of actual control. The crowd then retreated. Details of casualties are not known.

Spokesman Rejects Bhutto Statement on Kashmir

BK1102145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] India has rejected the Pakistan prime minister's statement on Jammu and Kashmir in the country's parliament yesterday as unacceptable interference in India's affairs. It says further evidence would be furnished to the Pakistani Government about the nefarious designs of anti-India forces operating from Pakistan. This was stated by a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today while reacting to Mrs Bhutto's reported statement and also to a resolution moved by the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in a joint session of the Pakistan parliament. Mrs Bhutto, while repeating the usual Pakistan stance on the Kashmir issue, also spoke about the absence of proof of Pakistan's involvement in the state.

The spokesman asserted that enough evidence had already been provided to Pakistan on the matter. He cautioned that any attempt to dilute the Simla Agreement might lead to situations in which neither country would wish. Islamabad must give up old cliches which perpetuate conflict and respond to New Delhi's resolve to build cooperation and friendship in the South Asian region.

Gujral Warns Pakistan Not To Misconstrue Policy

BK1002125990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has warned Pakistan not to misconstrue India's policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation as a weakness and force a war on it. He was inaugurating a two-day annual district conference of the Rotary International in Chandigarh today. He said if Pakistan threw a challenge or wanted to test India's unity, the country is prepared for every eventuality.

Mr Gujral said India wants to have friendly relations with its neighbors in South Asia. With this aim in mind, it wanted to build an environment where neighbors could live in peace. He said India has been trying to find areas where South Asian countries could sit together and make the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation a viable instrument of social, economic, and cultural cooperation.

In an interview to the PAKISTAN TIMES, the external affairs minister stressed the importance of both India and Pakistan resolving their differences through a dialogue and confidence-building measures so as to promote peace and cooperation in South Asia.

Kashmir 'Peaceful'; 'Minor Explosion' in Srinagar

BK0902161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The situation throughout the Kashmir Valley remained peaceful today also. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere, except a minor explosion in an empty public bus in Srinagar. Friday prayers were offered at Khanqah-i-Mohalla, Hazrat Bal, and other mosques of the city.

There will be no day curfew in Srinagar tomorrow; 268 trucks carrying essential commodities reached Srinagar from Jammu.

Hundreds of people have met the governor in Srinagar today also and told him their grievances.

Minister Asks 'Combat Readiness' of Soldiers

BK1002162990 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, today called upon army men to be in combat readiness to meet any challenge to the country's sovereignty and integrity. He was speaking to the jawans [soldiers] during a short visit to the northern command headquarters in Jammu today. Appreciating the high morale of the troops, Dr. Ramanna said the Indian Armed Forces are capable of meeting any threat to the country.

Gujral Meets Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary

BK0902131890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The visiting Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, held detailed discussions in New Delhi today. He met the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and handed over a letter from the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne. Our correspondent understands that besides the proposed Indo-Sri Lanka friendship treaty, a number of other urgent issues, including the devolution of power to the provincial council and the recent spurt in the flow of refugees from Sri Lanka, also came up for discussion.

Soviet Envoy Reiterates Support on Kashmir

BK1202094690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has reiterated its support to the territorial integrity of India on the Kashmir issue and said there must not be any external interference in the country's affairs. Addressing newsmen in New Delhi today, the Soviet ambassador, Mr. Viktor Isakov, called for a peaceful solution to the issue in the spirit of the Simla Agreement between India and Pakistan. He recalled that the Soviet Union has been a friend of India in its earlier occasions of need and at the present juncture also it will continue to be so.

Replying to a question, Mr. Isakov said there cannot be any comparison between the situations in the Soviet Azerbaijan and Jammu and Kashmir.

Construction of Temple at Disputed Site Deferred

BK0902131090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The Vishva Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] has deferred by four months its plan to start construction of a temple at Ayodhya. This was decided at a high-level meeting of VHP leaders and members of the Rama Janmabhoomi Mukti Yagya Samiti [Deity Rama's Birthplace Liberation Ceremony Committee] in New Delhi today.

Announcing the decision at a crowded press conference today, the president of the Samiti, Mahant Avaidyanath, MP [member of Parliament], said that the committee accepted the prime minister's assurance that a solution can be found to the Rama Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue in four month's time. It was thought proper to give the new government adequate time to resolve the issue. The high-powered committee will meet again in Ayodhya on Tuesday [13 February] to decide the future course of action.

Our correspondent reports that the VHP's decision to postpone construction, which was scheduled for the 14th of this month, comes as a relief as it might have otherwise resulted in communal disharmony. The decision was taken at the end of a long meeting and was unanimous.

The VHP general secretary, Mr. Ashok Singhal, said that they may allow the government even more time if it moves in the right direction toward solving the matter. He said the Parishad has already suggested to the prime minister that only a governmental committee, not an all-party one, should hear the concerned parties and suggest measures.

Refuting any political motive behind the decision, a Samiti member said neither the elections nor the Kashmir problem figured during the meeting. The VHP leaders emphasized that the construction of the temple is their final objective and a serious situation may arise if it is not achieved.

Naxalites Kidnap 2 People in Andhra Pradesh

BK1202032190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites belonging to the People's War group kidnapped an assistant engineer and an agriculturist in Polkampet Village of Nizamabad District yesterday. Mr. S.P. Mina, the SP [Superintendent of Police] of Nizamabad, said that about 15 extremists abducted Narsi Reddy, an assistant engineer, and his friend Subhash Reddy, an agriculturist, while they were returning from Polkampet Village, where they had gone to make purchases. Top police officers from Nizamabad and Hyderabad have rushed to the spot.

Iran

Mass Rally Celebrates Revolution's Anniversary

LD1102095290 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Tehran's Azadi (Freedom) Square once again witnessed one of the largest ever gatherings of jubilant people from the four corners of the capital city to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the victory of their Islamic revolution, Sunday morning.

All streets leading to the capital's largest square are reported filled with crowds of people chanting slogans in favor of the revolution and displaying their commitment to its lofty goals.

The snowcovered square, in western Tehran, is so packed with crowds that it is difficult for one to move even for a few inches.

Addressing the gathering, a senior cleric thanked the Iranian people for celebrating the 10 Days of the Dawn (February 1-11) so splendidly.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propagation Organization [IPO], also said "the Iranian people sticking to their Neither-East-nor-West policy are determined to continue treading their late imam's path."

He also vowed that "this people will never abandon their fight against the U.S. their objective is to institutionalize genuine Islam and the passage of time objective is to institutionalize genuine Islam and the passage of time would be unable to affect their divine motive."

Those marchers interviewed by IRNA all said that they had participated in the rally to reaffirm their allegiance to Islam, the late imam and the leadership of the Islamic revolution and also foil the poisonous propaganda launched by global arrogance against Iran. Bands of school pupils also sang revolutionary choirs at Azadi Square. A resolution was read to the gathering by an IPO official.

The resolution said the Muslim people of Iran who were vigilantly watching the unfavorable no-war-no-peace situation, did not regard the continuation of such conditions as being in the interest of the system in the country's reconstructione era.

It maintained that despite Iran's acceptance of resolution 598 and its display of good-will in this regard, the Iraqi regime by putting obstacles and raising issues outside the framework of the resolution was actually hindering its implementation.

Urging international organizations particularly the U.N. Security Council to try honestly to immediately enforce the peace plan, the resolution assured them that "the Iranian people will in no way quit their righteous stands."

It also voiced support for the principle of the Velayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the Supreme Jurisprudent) and for the hard working officials of the Islamic revolution.

"Reliance on Islam is the only way of salvaging the humanity," pointed out the resolution, vowing that the children of the Islamic revolution would continue supporting the freedom movements across the globe especially in Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

Also present at the ceremony were high ranking religious, political and military officials including cabinet ministers and Majlis deputies.

At the end of the ceremony, the gathering listened to a speech delivered by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Marchers Issue 6-Point Resolution

LD1102115790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Voice and Vision reporters who are preparing films and reports about the splendid and great ceremony from helicopters and from stationary units at various points along the route of the march estimated the number of participants in today's march in Tehran at over 5 million.

According to reports, security forces and stationary and mobile medical centers provided the various services required by the marchers, and people gave them fruit and candies.

According to reports, before the president's speech, the resolution of the marchers of the blessed day of 11 February was read out in six points. The resolution stressed loyalty and steadfastness for the sake of preserving Islamic values and continuing the Neither East nor West policy and for realizing the sacred aims of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It said: The Muslim nation of Iran, on this great blessed day, declares its decisive and all-sided support for the position of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and describes obedience to his eminence as the main factor for maintaining unity of expression, realizing the aims of the revolution and the sacred system of the Islamic Republic, and continuing the divine line of his eminence the imam.

The resolution also declared support for the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government in perpetuating his eminence the imam's line and the counsels of the eminent leader of the revolution, and requested that all executive organizations strive for rapid implementation of the Five-Year Plan and toward the country's growth and development.

The resolution of the glorious march of 11 February also stressed: The only way to liberate mankind is by reliance on pure Mohammedan Islam and united Muslim obedience to the vice regency of the jurisconsult. Until that is achieved, the children of the Islamic revolution will support liberation movements throughout the world, especially in Palestine, Lebanon, and Afghanistan.

In conclusion, the resolution praised the self-sacrifice and the selflessness of martyrs, selfless devotees, prisoners of war, and those missing in action, and their families. It renewed the pledge to continue their path, and stressed the need for the Muslim Iranian nation to remain prepared and vigilant.

The resolution said: The Muslim nation of Iran does not consider the continuation of the Neither peace nor war situation during the country's reconstruction to be in the interest of the system, and it asks international circles, especially the United Nations, to strive sincerely for swifter implementation of the articles of Resolution 598. Let them be certain the Muslim Iranian ummah will in no way retreat from its righteous stance.

President Addresses Rally

LD1102135490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the 11 February rally in Azadi Square in Tehran on the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Iranian revolution—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to God Almighty, His Prophet and his scion. Before anything, I deem it necessary to express my sincere and profound gratitude to those honorable people who are forever present on the scene for their efforts, perception and alacrity; such a rippling ocean of dedicated, upright, and perceptive beings who today, on the first anniversary of the commemoration of the victory of the Islamic revolution in the absence of his eminence, the imam of the ummah, have filled this great square with their devoted, self-sacrificing, and ever-present selves. This is the most manifest evidence and indescribable sign of the present situation, its stability and its pursuit of his eminence the imam's path. Words fail me when I attempt to expound such magnificence and splendor to the world. The only thing capable of depicting the reality of the presence of our people on the scene is the picture of that massive gathering and the huge edifice of the population of the Islamic ummah, who today, in unity and uniformity, are continuing the path of the imam, while voicing their support for Islam and the deprived in the world.

The point I would like to discuss with you this morning is the secret of victory, stability, and glory of this revolution. This, although addressed to you, is for the benefit of all those who are not with us today, but would like to know about it. My discourse is addressed to you freedom seekers of the world here at the Azadi Square.

It appears a large number of the world's hypocrites [reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization opposition group] are trying to discover the secret of the vitality, readiness, and maintenance of the revolutionary spirit in a nation which for 11 years has constantly been entangled in the revolution's problems, safeguarding Islam, the Koran, and the divine aspiration, by bringing all it has onto the field. The world's observers need to conduct diligent research and rational analysis to discover the secret of such stability and strength, which could constitute an exemplary path for other nations and ummahs.

The principal secret of the revolution's success, durability, and ability to foil plots hatched by those wild wolves who are ready to devour our revolution and people in every corner lies in the many dimensions of this sacred religion. If today you are witnessing how this huge Azadi Square and its surrounding streets are filled with such a presence—the ladies, the gentlemen, the youth, and the aged—as far as the eye can see, and despite heavy snow and cold weather, it is because they are following the rule of the what is the dearest object of their affection, which is the Koran; a secret which they have practiced, on discovery, during this period. The alacrity of his eminence, the imam of the ummah, and the secret of his excellency's success lay in his gracious discovery of that secret of durability and strength, in the very beginning, upon which he graciously depended.

As you remember, the first issue that arose in the wake of the victory of the revolution, between us—the followers of the imam's line—and the various lines that existed in the perimeter of this revolution [sound of helicopter hovering] and the forces and elements that had infiltrated the ranks of the revolution was that very issue. The imam graciously said: The slogan, aspiration, aim, wish, and path are all found in Islam, and we do not accept anything other than Islam. At that juncture they insisted on appending something to Islam, to the aim and goal of the revolution; they stressed words such as "democratic" and similar words which could indicate the presence of something other than Islam among the islamic forces. Of course, "democratic" was not a word whose connotation stirred fear in anyone. "Democratic" means rule of the people, and that is something that lies in the rule of Islam. The imam graciously said: Islam encompasses everything insofar as you do not have any ulterior motives. We want Islam. If we speak of the rule of the people, we are speaking about the rule of the Muslim people; the rule of Islam via the people. Well, the imam, who relied on the decisive 99 percent majority of the people, was not one who would worry about the addition of the word "democratic" to Islam, because the rule of the people was something with which the imam had graciously guaranteed his revolution, and with which he had graciously come onto the scene. The issue was that subtle point with which the depraved wished to infiltrate the Islamic ummah, through putting forward issues of a possibly different flavor.

The first division to occur between the forces on the scene took place in the Assembly of Experts, on the day when the principles of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult were debated. The Assembly of Experts insisted that the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult, as the guardian of the revolution, and the scholar of the revolution and Islam form an indisputable principle of the constitution. But the other groups said: We do not want the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult, but we do want Islam. That was not acceptable. The point of division became apparent once again when the principle of the rule of Islamic regulations was debated in the Assembly of Experts. They said that our nation is Islamic and the community will naturally always remain Islamic, hence they would not accept that the absolute rule of Islam and its indisputability should be stipulated in the constitution. However, at the imam's insistence the experts endorsed that principle. When they came to the principles regarding the Council of Guardians, that point was once again put forward. They said that because the nation itself supports Islam there is no need to establish something called the Council of Guardians in the constitution and the system with the function of safeguarding the Islamic principles, in the laws. But the imam's discerning eyes and the forces in the service of the imam and the revolution, as well as the pure Islamic forces, disagreed with this view that we do not need a foundation known as the Council of Guardians. He did so in order to assure our people that whatever laws are made are Islamic. Such debates were ended in the Assembly of Experts, to the benefit of the imam's line and the pure Islam, in such a way that Islam was made the authoritative rule and the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult became the commentator and guard of the ruling ideology, which is Islam.

The Islamic rules and regulations became law, and the Council of Guardians became the governor and the protector of Islamic rules and decrees which were to be the basis of society's behaviour. [sound of helicopter]

The splendor of the Islamic ideology was shown in the form of the Council of Guardians as the protector of the constitution and Islamic judgments, and in the form of that fundamental point where the liberals separated from the body of the revolution.

The first unwanted battle waged by non-Islamic forces in the system of the Islamic Republic and ended in the interest of the forces of pure Islam, was over this same subject. And the strange thing is, at that stage all forces that did not believe in Islam were in harmony with each other. The leftists of the left, such as the Feda'i-ye Khalq and the Red Star and so on—are being buried in history little by little and are going into the dustbin of history, as well as the hypocrites who talked of Islam but whose hearts were not with Islam, and the liberals and the monarchists and nationalists who were not happy with Islam—all reached one point and that became a point for their cooperation to block the constitution, including the issue that Islamic rules and regulations should go to the Council of Guardians for approval.

That was the first official and legal victory for the Islamic ideology and judgments at that juncture. It was also over the same issue that global arrogance suffered its biggest defeat from the forces affiliated with the line of the Imam.

All other issues were side issues. As soon as the arrogance realized that it is no longer able to stand against the stormy tide of the Iranian nation's will, and the imperial regime went away with the storm that destoyed the base of colonialism, then it planned a new trick, a trick they always had up their sleeves. It is a principal of colonialism, they say, that when you are thrown out of a country's door then you should re-enter through a window. That day their politics and tactics were to accept the revolution, but then to enter through another area and take away the content of the revolution and keep its empty skin in order to enter that empty skin and govern the country in the name of the nation. The brain which that termite wanted to destroy was Islam. Those windows through which it intended to infiltrate the heart of the masses and the system was the window of nationalism and liberalism and the windows of the Monafeqin and the leftists. Those windows became wide open for them, and they began to infiltrate their agents through. They created a struggle within the system in the form of armed revolt and actions which appeared to be legal through the provisional government or the Assembly of Experts. But they were defeated in that struggle. Their method, which had been proven in the history of national revolutions, was defeated for the first time in Iran. Of course, they still follow that method. It is a princple for arrogance, for colonialism that whenever a nation rises up and destroys the domain of the arrogance, then the arrogance leaves things until the nation is once again quiet and then takes away their belief from within. That is exactly what is happening in South Africa today. My discussion for today is a discussion which applies to the people of South Africa too.

The experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran can be an experience for all generations, and particularly for South Africa. One nation knows that the black majority have been struggling against the white minority for decades. They have given blood and wealth, and they have made efforts. Their leader Mr. Mandela has been in prison for 27 and ½ years over the same issue of the black majority's rights. Today their leader is to be freed and the white government of South Africa appears, on the surface, to have surrendered to the will of the majority.

This is where the termite of arrogance undertakes its infiltration. The first item of news which pierced the ears of righteous people this morning was the news of the invitation to Mr. Mandela, who was improsoned for 27 years, (?along with Mr. de Klerk ruling Africa) from the Prime Minister of Britain, Mrs. Thatcher. It is amazing that Britain, which is responsible for all the crimes of the decades-long rule of whites in South Africa, today invites the 27-year prisoner to London, and in the company of Mr. de Klerk.

If that invitation is accepted and if Mr. Mandela sets off for London, things will be just as they would have wished it; in other words, the decades-long struggle will have been wasted. After all, with whose support do you think the white government was ruling in South Africa? The massacres, those cruelties, the colonialism, the plundering of (?diamond mines), the exploitation of Africa's manpower and blacks—with what power do you think those things took place? Who was it, after all, if not Britain, who until yesterday opposed the boycott of white Africans? Who was it that the (?people) of Africa were confronted with, if not Britain?

Suddenly, when the people's struggles are beginning to bear fruit, when the time for liberation of people has arrived, (?there is suddenly the impression) that the British prime minister has become a liberation seeker, invites yesterday's prisoner, who is to be freed today, to Britain, and (?is showing a green light).

If the African nation falls for that deception, it will be a denial of all its struggles. In Iran the same thing nearly happened in the early days of the revolution. They wanted, in the name of the democratic [words indistinct] to turn the struggles of Muslims into a nationalist current affiliated to the West so that the minds of the United States, Britain, and their other friends could be at rest about Iran and so that an Iran which was yesterday under the yoke of the evil reign of the Pahlavi clan would fall tomorrow under the yoke of a nationalist republic;

then their interests would be maintained (?in the name of the republic) and there would be no Islam.

The battle is over Islam and over this light (?which moves people). Whatever we have—during the period of struggle and during the period of victory and construction, in the future and in the past—we have because of Islam, and we must (?direct all our remarks) towards the supremacy of Islam and the maintenance of this sacred religion from which stems our greatness, our pride, the happiness of the world, our salvation, our freedom, and our independence. That slogan which our nation chanted, "independence, freedom," had as its third part "Islamic Republic"; in other words, we will (?attain) freedom and independence in the framework of the Islamic Republic and the commands of the Koran. [crowd chants "Independence, freedom, the Islamic Republic"]

Thank you. To sum up the brief and condensed speech which I have made because of the vast and extensive presence of you people in the square: We see the secret of our success, victory, continued existence, and strength in Islam, and the protector of Islam in our system is—it has been stipulated in the constitution that the country and the revolution's ideology is Islamic and the protector of that ideology is the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult. And in (?its practical manifestation), the principle which demands the rule of the commands of Islam, which is its protector, is the Council of Guardians. And the popular base of this system is the vote of you, the people, which is crystallized in the Majles where there are 270 people representing you. And (?your system is a republic) in which the president is (?also) chosen on the basis of our people's votes. And the protector of the health of the (?course) of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult is the Assembly of Experts, which is itself also appointed by the people and (?by the clergy).

In other words, a (?pyramid) has been constructed, the base of which is formed by the people [words indistinct] form the system, and the contents of the system is taken from Islam. And we have this strong (?system and path) because of the lofty, rich, farsighted, and perspicacious commands of his eminence the imam [word indistinct], that great man of history, the source of emulation and religious authority, the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah (?the leader of ayatollahs) Khomeyni. [crowd chants support]

We will have the continuation of this clear and sacred path through (?the link) with that honorable imam, his student, his clergy son, and the person bearing his recommendation and trust, Ayatollah Khamene'i. [crowd chants support] The continued existence will be because of the unstinting support of you honorable, free-thinking, Shiite Muslim people. Throughout these 12 years [as heard] we have always solved our most difficult problems with your presence in the arena: the war, (?armed rebellions), the economic sanctions, and the unprecedented propaganda onslaught going on against this system. We have solved all of them through your awareness and your presence, and it will be the same in the future.

And the height of this support (?lies in) the sacred blood of our martyrs, the assistance of the dear selfless devotees, and the prisoners of war [POW's], and the honorable families of the martyrs, the selfless devotees, POWs, and those missing in action. God willing, this cohesion, unity, and solidarity around the axis of the Koran and Islam will, just as the holy Prophet asked that [word indistinct] and the Koran should (?stand together) and just as the imam in his (?legal) will, spoke [words indistinct] we will stand fast in the path of God.

Concluding my remarks, let me express gratitude for the presence of our eminent guests and honorable people in these ceremonies, and especially the dear students who sang that song so beautifully and so sweetly. May God keep you. We sincerely thank the headquarters which has organized these ceremonies, which is a great task in our history. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Mahdavi-Kani Warns Britain on Rushdie Issue

LD1002161690 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] London, Feb. 10, IRNA—A prominent Iranian alim advised the British Government Friday night, not to make the folly of standing against the planet's one billion-plus Muslims by continuing to support the apostate writer Salman Rushdie.

"London had better abandon its backing for Rushdie, apologise to Muslims and let him leave Britain," Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani said. He is currently in Britain, and was addressing a gathering of over 1,000 Iranians attended by a large number of reporters, as part of celebrations for the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Terming the author of "The Satanic Verses" as "scurrilous and impudent" Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said the apostate cannot be classified with the literary community, because he is pouring out his perverted personal thoughts against time honoured values.

He said the verdict against Salman Rushdie or for that matter against any other apostate who explicitly insults Islamic sanctities is clear in the holy Quran, and that is nothing short of death.

The late leader of the Islamic revolution issued the verdict on the basis of the holy Quran and it was not his own personal opinion, said the ayatollah, pointing out to the popularity of Imam Khomeyni's decree which was even approved by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

In Islam all schools of jurisprudence are unanimous on death penalty for apostacy, and the imam's fatwa [religious edict] which was pronounced last February has been widely acclaimed, even by Muslims in Britain where the apostate is in hiding under government protection.

He questioned the so-called freedom of expression in the West, and the limit of such animal freedom even for Westerners, and castigated the lack of legal safeguards in Britain to protect Muslim rights against blasphemy.

"Time is ripe for you to accept that your 300-year-long hegemony and colonialism has come to an end. The awakened world nations have risen up to defend their rights," Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani told the British Government.

He said if Britain was willing to have good relations with the Islamic Republic as it claims, then it should wake up to the realities and give up its obstinacy and start talks in a logical manner.

The ayatollah, elsewhere, called on Iranians abroad who, influenced by Western propaganda, fear to return to their homeland, to come back to the fold of Islamic Iran and rest assured of their complete security if they did not do anything wrong.

Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani is currently here for medical treatment.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon

LD1002183890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 9 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] Today on the occasion of the blessed birthday of the lord of the two worlds, the prince of faithful, peace be upon him, which has coincided with the days of general celebration of our revolution, I offer my sincere congratulations to all of you taking part in the prayers, to all the Iranian people, and to all the Muslims of the world, even to all the oppressed nations of the world who are thirsty for justice. I hope that as a blessing from the prince of the faithful, God will bestow his blessings and grace upon the Islamic community and the Muslims, especially in Islamic Iran.

However, the Issue which I wish to refer to in the first sermon is a short discourse about our great Islamic revolution. The point is that even though in this century, in the 20th century of the Christian calendar, there were many different types of revolutions throughout the world, the Islamic revolution in Iran was an exceptional revolution. So far, everything about this revolution has been exceptional and cannot be compared with other revolutions. Of course, we are talking about revolutions. Changes that have taken place in the world through military coups, although in some countries even those changes have been called revolutions, are not worthy of mention when we are talking about revolutions; they belong to a different category they are different issues. We are talking about revolutions, developments that are brought about by the people themselves and are based on ideological and social foundations in society. Although there have been many such revolutions during the past few decades, none of them was like our Islamic revolution. This is why this revolution has still maintained its brilliance throughout the world.

I wish to refer to two exceptional characteristics of this revolution; and it was precisely these two characteristics that had the greatest impact in the impact of this revolution throughout the world. These two characteristics also had the greatest effect in the victory and the continuation of the revolution in our Islamic country. It is also due to these two characteristics that in different parts of the world, there have been movements, developments or at least certain efforts by some people imitating this revolution and under the influence of this revolution. One of these two characteristics is that religious, moral, and spritual values constitute the basis of this revolution. The second characteristic is that this revolution is based on the will of the people and the wishes of the people in the formation of the government, in the running of the government; and this characteristic still holds true. In other words, the importance of the people's role was not denied after the victory of the revolution; but rather has stayed during the revolution, as one of its elements. These are the two characteristics of our revolution.

Other revolutions have been staged on the basis of materialist ideology. Most of them have been like that. These materialist ideas have either been ideological materialism such as Marxist or communist ideas; or they have been based on materialistic considerations, like many nationalistic groups, who take certain measures in some countries, who do not have a religious ideology, and whose vision is materialistic, even though they are not adherents of a materialistic ideology. This has been true about all revolutions. Even some revolutions that started as religious or Islamic revolutions have in the end left behind their Islamic characteristics; such as some countries where revolutions first started in mosques, where the movement was initiated in the mosques or in religious seminaries. We have such countries in Asia, as well as in Africa. However, later, when other movements were strengthened, as there was not sufficient leadership strength among the religious people, others came forward and took over, and changed the direction of the movement from a religious to a non-religious course. I cannot think of any revolution in any part of the world which has been an exception to this general rule.

This is not how it happened in our country. The revolution first started in the houses of religion, in the mosques and seminaries, and each day the religious direction of the revolution grew stronger, and the role of religion and spiritual values became so strong that it eventually brought people to the arena of the revolution who are not usually brought on the arena in any other revolution: old people, even people who were unaware of political issues, people who lived in distant towns and villages. The revolution brought such people to the arena of struggle and revolution.

Moreover, we succeeded in achieving victory at the lowest possible cost during the period of revolution, through reliance on religious morality. That is an important point. Those who have studied the world's materialistic revolutions, especially the October Revolution of Russia, can well understand the significance of that point. Where revolutions were made on the basis of opposition to religion, the cost has been too high at the height of the victory. When people destroy a regime and an order and have not yet replaced it with anything else, as a rule they will have no inhibitions in their social dealings, in their confrontations, and in seeking revenge. As I said, during that revolution to which I referred, such events were numerous. People who have read about them will agree. There were revenge-seeking, abuses, and misappropriations. There were bad individuals who set up personal lordships over parts of the country for a while. So much property was destroyed and so many innocent lives terminated, and so on. These events did not take place in our revolution. [passage omitted]

Then, after victory of the revolution the government which was formed on the basis of the revolution was an Islamic government—an Islamic republic. It moved neither to the left nor to the right; it remained on the direct line of faith. The Islamic Republic, after being set up, did not leave the path of religion as the time went by; rather, the people entered the arena armed with Islamic yardsticks—in legislation, in the election of the officials, and in the selection of the principlal functionaries of the regime such as the Majles representatives and others. Religion was the characteristic of the revolution and it remained so. [passage omitted] That characteristic was one of the main reasons why any where in the world when a heart was beating for Islam, it was invariably inclined to the Islamic Republic which is moving for Islam and for the glorification of the world Islam.

The second characteristic is the popularity of the revolution. Other revolutions, those which were truly revolutions, coup d'etats and military actions apart, anywhere in the world were always revolutions created by people. But when a revolution was either victorious or on the verge of victory, then a party or parties came and replaced that revolution and those people. And the people were pushed aside. Consider the communist countries of the world: Many of their systems are revolutionary systems, were revolutionary systems; that is, they came about after a revolution, the people played a role in them, and the people helped the struggling revolutionary group. This was the way it happened in most socialist countries. In all those countries, however, as soon as the revolution approached victory, the people were pushed aside and the party took over, calling itself the communist party or whatever else they named the ruling party. They did whatever they wanted in the name of people, but people had no role to play. The same people who went on the streets, entered the struggle in one way or another, or supported the struggling group for example, were not even given the right to send a representative to the parliament. In none of those countries are people's representatives present at the national congress, the national congress which is their parliament. People had no role whatsoever to play. That is a very strange thing, but that strange phenomena existed everywhere in the world.

In one of our trips to one of those same socialist countries, one or two years ago, one of our companions who was one of the esteemed deputies of the Majles discussed some Majles issues with the officials of that country's national parliament. He gave some information about our Majles to them and received some information about their parliament and then he came to us, we were sitting discussing something, he came with a serious expression on his face and said we learned some important things from these gentlemen, meaning from those whose guests we were. He said we talked about parliament issues to them and asked them: What is your parliament like? How many members does it have? When does it hold sessions? How is the speaker elected? He found out that their national parliament is formed of people who are from the party apparatus and organizations dependent on the government itself; that is, 500 or 600 people are chosen by the same party apparatus as members of the congress and representatives of the congress. Then those people named to the national congress hold two sessions per year. In that country where their parliament holds sessions twice a year, who passes the law in that country? Who controls the enactment of the law? It is in the hands of those who are at the head of the government setup. If you ask them what is the name of your government, they reply democratic socialist government of somewhere, and they name their country; this means a popular government, a democratic one. Socialist means popular and public. It has a popular name and at the same time the people of that country have no role in any of the affairs of that country, and those are the same people who brought the revolution to victory. The names of those countries are revolutionary, too. All revolutions we have seen in the world, and the countries who have created a system on the basis of a revolution, almost all are as I have explained.

Now in our country, from the onset of the revolution all roles were given to the people; that is, the people form the Majles where laws are passed, the people's representatives go there. No one is allowed to coerce people. From some 270 deputies, not a single deputy enters the Majles without the people's vote. The president, who is responsible for the executive affairs of the country and is the head of the country's management and the manager of the country, is elected through people's votes. Everyone chooses whomever he wants. The method of presidential elections as held in Iran does not even exist in the countries of the Western democracies, because in those countries, goals stand against one another and each party names someone as a candidate, and the people who vote for him in fact give their votes to that party and a lot of them do not even know that person. They support the party for some reason, for economic reasons, and political or non-political motivations make them support that particular party. Because they support that party, then they vote for that party's candidate and maybe they do not even know that candidate at all. Well, it is not like that in Iran. In Iran every person who casts a vote knows the person he is voting for, for president, for example. This last election was just like this, the two previous elections when I was the president were also the same, and the election prior to that was also the same. In all the presidential elections we have had so far, five presidential elections, the people themselves got to know the person for whom they voted, and then they cast their votes. [crowd chants support]

Therefore, the people directly participate in choosing the legislature, the executive, and the head of the executive. Even in choosing the leader, although the leadership is a divine position and dependant on divine, spiritual, and real criteria, the people have a say in it. [passage omitted]

In accordance with the law, the members of the Assembly of Experts, who are the representatives of the people, select people for leadership. If a person chosen by the Assembly of Experts is not acceptable to the people, his leadership would not come about. [passage omitted] The people are involved in political, economic, and military matters. If the government, or an official, wishes to commit acts which do not meet public approval, the the people can stop them. [passage omitted] Any regime not relying on the people could be destroyed by the superpowers. Any regime not in touch with the people, not enjoying strong popular support, could be installed or removed by the U.S. espionage organization. Foreign enemies could incite four people to stage a coup d'etat against a regime just occupying the seat of power, which is isolated from the people, and goes in one direction while the people go in another. Neither the United States, its allies, the East, the West—when there were two big powers in the world—nor any other power could shake or shatter any system such as the Islamic Republic in which the ruler, leader, president, head of the executive and Majles rely on, are in touch with, loved and supported by, the people. [crowd chants support] [passage omitted]

Since the outset of the revolution, during the past 11 eleven years, there were, and still are, a number of people who keep complaining about not having freedom. Where do they complain, behind closed doors? In an oppressive system, he who has no freedom cannot say what he wants, and if he wants to say I have no freedom, he has to say it indoors, among friends, as during the reign of the previous regime. But those gentlemen say we have no freedom in newspapers and magazines, which could have a circulation of 1,000, and even on the Islamic Republic radio and television. God will disgrace them by their own hand. [crowd chants] And He has done so; you do not have to say "God willing." [passage omitted] They say: The people who go to Friday prayers are not the entire nation. We say, very good; what about those who take part in the march on the anniversary of the revolution? The millions-strong march. What about those who took part in the funeral ceremony for the imam, when 10 million people, 11 million, gathered in Tehran? What about that? Was that the entire nation, or not?

The nation wants Islam. It wants the Islamic Republic. It supports the leadership. It backs the Islamic Republican system, and anyone who moves along the path of Islam, the sincerity and truthfulness of which has been established for the people, is trusted by the people; the people back him. [crowd chants support]

This is what we conclude: These 11 years, dear brothers and sisters, show us the successful record of the Islamic Republic. The fundamental matter for a nation consists, in the first instance, of this very independence and freedom; of course, the cost of obtaining independence and freedom is high. It requires work. It entails difficulties, and for some time it entails difficulties in life. That lasts some time.

My opinion is that we have either gone through the entire period, or a major part of it. We are moving, God willing, toward a better life. The condition is that the people who were on the stage and who brought about the revolution and preserved it should remain on the stage; in other words, you people. And you will remain on the stage. That is as clear as day to me. That is what the 11 year record has shown.

As for myself, on my own behalf, as a religious student, as your humble servant, as a minor student of the imam, and as a minor soldier for the revolution and for Islam, let me say that we will not forgo any effort, in the path of Islam, in the path of an Islamic life, in the path of the vitality of the Islamic tradition, for the sake of you people and for the sake of the Islamic society. No factor, with God's wisdom, will be able to deflect us from this straight path and this clear line. [crowd chants support]

What is important is that we should maintain reliance on Islam. [crowd chants support for Khamene'i] Please. What is important is reliance on Islam, and what is important is that we should not be afraid of the enemies of God and the enemies of Islam. That is a lesson which we learned from the lords of the believers, Imam 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him, and from his worthy student and son, our dear imam. They drew that line for us and, God willing, we will advance.

Maintain your unity. Maintain piety. Maintain your fear of God and observance of divine commands in all matters; maintain that. Maintain the thought of God. Maintain your chant "God is great." Maintain your enmity against the enemies of God in your hearts. Maintain the idea of service for Islam throughout the world and for all the world's Muslims. And maintain your idea of striving for the construction of this country of Islam and this country of the lord of the age, may my spirit be sacrificed for him [the hidden imam]. With those qualities, be certain that no power will be able... [changes thought] When there were two superpowers in the world and they were able to collude, and they often did collude, they were not able to deflect this nation by the slightest amount from its path or to inflict a real blow. Today, also when one of the superpowers has, in reality, ceased to be a superpower, the other one is also dizzy and does not know what is happening in the world; today, when nations are moving toward greater awareness; today, too, the satans of the world, with God's wisdom, will not be able to achieve a single thing. [crowd chants support] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [Koranic verse omitted]

Second Sermon

LD0902215590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 9 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. I would like to mention only two short sentences. One is about the situation of Resolution 598. The whole world should know that the Iraqi regime, contrary to its peace-seeking claims, only wanted a cease-fire in order to save itself. That was what we have repeatedly said at this same sacred Friday prayers site over the past few years. At the time when they [Iraqis] were saying they wanted peace, the world asked us why we did not accept that. We said it was not peace they were after, but that they were seeking a ceasefire in order to save themselves. That fact has now been proven.

It is obvious that the Iraqis, in order to justify themselves, will say that the Islamic Republic does not accept the cease-fire. Nevertheless, the facts are clear. Any intelligent person can immediately see what is going on. Saddam Husayn shows ill-intentions, not goodwill. The present situation he has created reduces confidence in establishing peace in the region.

Of course, we think it unlikely that the Iraqis would be so foolish as to want to ignite the flames of war once again, because that more than anything would be against their own interests. Even if war does not resume again, peace and tranquility has not been established in the region. That is a situation created by them, and the solution to that is implementation of the resolution. The resolution is not a God-given document, but it has been accepted by all. Whoever wants to undermine it, in fact, intends to stir up trouble and has subversive intentions. Also, the pretexts they resort to are precisely that and serve the same intentions. They raise the issue of the prisoners of war [POW's]. We say that if you had accepted the implementation of the resolution, the prisoners would have returned home by now. In fact, it is you who kept the POW's because of the obstructions you have created against implementation of the resolution. That was one issue.

The second point is that during the past 11 years whenever the world seriously feared the influence of the Islamic Republic among nations, they resorted to accusations against the Islamic Republic. We now realize that any time we see those accusations against us circulating throughout the world, it means that world arrogance is afraid of the impact of the words "Islamic Republic." Events may have occurred here or there, events of which we may not be aware. They are informed of them and are afraid and therefore arrange those accusations against us.

First, they falsely accuse us of having relations with Israel, knowing that Muslim nations are sensitive about the usurper Israel. They also know that the nation which works in harmony—in its truest and most sincere sense—with the Muslim nations is, in the first place, the Islamic Republic. They know that our late great imam had from the beginning of the resurgence made the struggle against Israel one of the principal pillars of the resurgence. They are aware of all that. However, in order to diminish the influence of the Islamic Republic among other nations, they fabricate a piece of news, a rumor, or a transaction. They whisper rumors about the purchase or the sale of something, at some place, by someone to somebody—one from the Islamic Republic and the other from Israel. That is one of the accusations they have constantly levelled against us.

What is strange and remarkable is that such accusations are levelled by those very persons who have relations with Israel, either overtly or covertly. It is some of those very reactionary governments of the region—who held secret and covert relations with Israel—who sensationalize such remarks on their radios. I declare that we have not had any friendly, amicable, or even the slightest, weakest form of relations with the usurper, illegitimate, and depraved government of Israel for even a day or an hour, and we will never do so either. [crowd chants "God is great," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to the hypocrites," "Death to Zionism]

My third and final point is that we defend the Islamic awakening throughout the world and support those Muslims from various parts of the world who wish to return to their Islamic way of life and culture. That is their prerogative. Not everything heard around the world today is the same. The slogans do not all point to merely one truth. Judgments made regarding Muslim issues in the world are not always the same for everybody. However, what is important to us is the return to Islam by the Muslims. Muslims around the world are right to honor and cherish Islam and the Koran today. They will certainly continue honoring and cherishing them, and they will certainly return to their Islamic way of life. Attempts to suppress them will have no effect whatsoever.

Mercenary hands are trying to reduce the value of Islam in the eyes of the people and weaken it through hatching cultural and propaganda plots, such as the plot concerning "The Satanic Verses" by that hireling author. However, they are mistaken. It is they who are the losers. The person who wrote that book—and I am using this, of course, as an example—for which our great imam issued the fatwa [religious edict] of his death sentence, that fatwa of the imam still holds with the same force and should be implemented. [crowd chants "God is great," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to England," "Death to the hypocrites"]

Arabic Sermon

NC0902203990 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1813 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Friday prayers sermon delivered in Arabic by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 9 February—recorded]

[Text] I salute the oppressed and all the men and women of our Islamic nation. I greet you with the salute of Islam and may God's peace and prayer be with you. I bless you on the birthday of the prince of the faithful, 'Ali Ibn-Abu-Talib, may peace be with him. He was an advocate of monotheism and justice and a true struggler for God's cause. Furthermore, he was the son of Ka'bah and the martyr of the mihrab. I also congratulate you on the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, which bears the torch for the liberation of oppressed people from the world forces of domination and which calls for monotheism and human dignity.

The Islamic revolution, the 11th anniversary of which our people are celebrating, was a unique and great event which occurred despite all the contingency plans prepared by the world great powers. It continued its march despite all the hidden hatred and great hostility that surrounded it. Thanks be to God, it became even stronger with the passing of time, confounding all analyses and expectations. This Islamic revolution not only changed the political and social system of one country and not only overthrew one regime and replaced it with another, but it also was a turning point in the course of modern history. This course was headed toward materialism and toward undermining moral and ethical values, discarding religion, consolidating the domination of the materialistic forces, and entrenching the hegemony of the world tyrant system. The Islamic revolution changed this course and set it in the direction of raising morale, of religious affiliation, the establishment of popular governments, weakening the position of the world's tyrants, and the collapse of tyrannical, atheistic, and inhumane regimes.

Hence, this blessed revolution, although it did not enter into a confrontation with the social and political system of a certain country, did engage in a fierce confrontation against the system of global domination. This revolution not only fought the oppressive and corrupt regime in Iran, but also fought the corrupt system of the tyrannical and antipopular forces. Naturally, this did not mean a declaration of war against the corrupt and oppressive governments and regimes, but instead resulted from the growing awakening around the world and the emergence of hope in people's hearts. Therefore, the arrogant forces who depend on oppression and wealth and who work to promote the materialistic interests of world arrogance, led by the United States, have declared an all-out and ferocious war on this revolution and on its ideological basis, represented by the genuine Islam of Muhammad, may God's prayer and peace with him. They also declared war on the leader of this revolution, Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, and on the bearers of the burdens of this revolution, namely the Iranian people. This war is still going on.

I confidently and resolutely declare that global arrogance has suffered defeat in this war. The best proof is the continuation and the strengthening of this revolution and the Islamic Republic system and the spread of the ideological principles of this revolution in all parts of the world.

The past 11 years, although brief in duration, are very significant to us, the sons of the Iranian people, because of the struggle, patience, and moral lessons we have learned and practiced. They are also significant because of the lessons which we have drawn from the Koran and the proof we have seen of God's power and will in this universe.

Today we are determined to continue along the road of revolution with a confidence in the future that is greater than that which we had at the beginning of our journey. This confidence is the result of our experiences over 11 years. We also possess a state of preparedness that is higher than what we had at the start because it is also based on those experiences.

After the departure of our great imam, which was a loss to the Iranian people as monumental as his great personality, the enemy harbored the hope that the state of Iran would move away from the path of revolution. When the enemy saw facts that frustrated his expectations, its media began propagating claims that such a movement had occurred. It hoped to make nations despair of the venerable Islamic revolution and its system. We declare now that, with God's power, these hopes will remain unfulfilled and a source of grief in the hearts of the enemies and they will be overcome.

To undermine the hopes attached to this revolution and the Islamic Republic's system of government, the enemy began to charge that the revolution was surrendering to the enemies of Islam and accused it of establishing relations with America and Israel. We declare that the battle against the Zionist enemy's government and the defense of the wronged Palestinian people's struggle and the usurped Palestinian land is an integral part of the Islamic revolution's beliefs.

Building our country on the basis of an Islamic economy that is founded on justice and general prosperity, encouraging the energies of work, creativity, and production, opening up the land's resources, and eliminating poverty is an urgent task to which we devote all our energies. We are also interested in preserving the various Islamic principles and crucial aspects of the revolution with great care and absolute exactitude.

We regard the defense of all Muslims in the world and Islamic sanctities everywhere as being among the tasks of our great mission. For this reason, those who conspire against Islamic values and encroach on the sanctities of Islam through cultural and artistic plots are on the list of our enemies. I declare here that the edict of the imam, may God bless his soul, regarding the author of "The Satanic Verses," who is an agent of the arch Satan and the satans of international politics, is still in force. All Muslims are entrusted with the task of its implementation.

Again I greet all the brothers and sisters, the children of the Islamic world, and the oppressed people everywhere. I inspire their hearts with hope by reminding them of God Almighty's words: In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. God has promised to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds that He will surely grant them in the land, inheritance, as He granted it to those before them; that He will establish in authority their religion—the one which He has chosen for them; and that He will change their state of fear, in which they lived, to one of security of peace. They will worship Me alone and not associate with anyone but Me. [KLoranic verse] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. He is God, the one and only God, the Eternal, Absolute; he begetteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like Him. [Koranic verse]

*New Interior Ministry Appointments Announced

90OI0155G Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
11 Jan 90 p 18

[Text] Ministry of Interior Appointments
Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, minister of interior, made the following appointments:

1 - Khalil Reza'iyan as Bushehr deputy governor-general for development.
2 - Seyyed Jamaleddin Hedayatzadeh as Zanjan deputy governor-general for development.
3 - Seyyed Ahmad Hoseyni as governor of Saveh.
4 - Esfandiar Mobtakar-Sarabi, as governor of Bijar.
5 - Rasul Yakhchaliyan as governor of Sanqar.
6 - Reza Nik-Nadaf as governor of Faridan.

Commentary Condemns India's Policy in Kashmir

NC0502172190 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 25 Jan 90 p 10

[Unattributed commentary: "The Massacre in Kashmir"]

[Text] The Indian Government once again created a tragedy in the Muslim-inhabited state of Jammu and Kashmir and the blood of hundreds of people there was shed.

After the election of V.P. Singh as India's prime minister and the appointment of a Muslim as interior minister, it was expected that the behavior of the Indian central government toward the Muslims of that country would improve. However not only did this not happen, but the government's hasty decisions only exacerbated the situation of the Muslims. For years the Indian Government has resorted to violent methods in a bid to impose its complete domination over the Muslims. Hundreds, even thousands of Muslims have been murdered in the course of various conflicts. Morever, the central government has, since independence, inflicted economic and political pressure on the Muslims to such an extent that a large portion of the Indian people are now deprived of their rights and are facing dire economic conditions.

The unrest in Jammu and Kashmir was sparked by the violation of the rights of the people in that area and was followed by military attacks by the central government. The crisis exacerbated after a new governor of the state was appointed and has spread to the entire region in recent days.

The new governor, who held the post at various times in the past 6 years, does not have a good reputation among Muslims. The recent violent approaches reveal his unprincipled character, especially as even holy shrines were not spared during the recent attacks and the Muslims were the targets of the most severe pressures.

These conflicts and confrontations show that the path that V.P. Singh's government has chosen to preserve its military foothold in Jammu and Kashmir will exacerbate the tension and intensify the crisis. Definitely, the suppression of Muslims, even on the pretext of the intervention of others in the protesting movements, will ultimately lead to general protest by the Muslims of the world. Muslims have already voiced their protest to the Indian Government by various means. Meanwhile, reports speak of the continuation and intensification of violent measures, and the declaration of martial law in two other cities in this state indicate that unpleasant and regrettable acts may take place in the future.

At any rate, the recent bloody conflict coupled with the forced deportation of people has given rise to the belief among people that the new government intends to continue and perhaps escalate the polices of its predecessor. This is a great mistake and the central government will in no way benefit from this behavior. Only if logical methods are used and Muslims granted their just rights will both sides benefit.

It should be recalled that Kashmir is in northern India and that Pakistan and India have been fighting over it since 1948 when, under an agreement, two-thirds of Kashmir was given to India and one-third to Pakistan. More than 80 percent of the population of 12 million in

India's Kashmir and more than 98 percent of the population [no figure as published] in Pakistan's Kashmir are Muslims. Pakistan's Kashmir is an autonomous state known as Free Kashmir. In past years, the Muslims of India's Kashmir seized various opportunities to emigrate to Free Kashmir. This has intensified during the recent bloody incidents. On the basis of a UN resolution, the people in Jammu and Kashmir have the right to choose their government.

Editorial Assesses Growth of Islamic Movement

NC0502174590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Jan 90 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "The Third Threat"]

[Text] Most recent analyses of political problems in the West conclude that the Western bloc faced two major threats in the past: Nazism and Communism. The same analysts say: The third threat, which is lying in ambush for the Western bloc and is bigger than the other two threats, is "the world movement of Islam" which emerged in the last decade.

This analysis is entirely correct, but we must also consider that the empire of Western corruption will finally bow down before the growing Islamic movement. Actually, what the West describes as the third threat is not something that can be overcome like nazism and communism because the "Islamic movement" is not only totally different from these two but is also contrary to them in principle.

Even though Nazism and Communism differed in appearance and form from the Western empire, nevertheless their contents and bases were the same as those of the Western empire. These two were basically the offspring of the West. All three shared a reliance on materialism and fighting God and it was precisely this which made them contrary to the interests of the people.

The Islamic movement, the base of which is the Islamic Republic of Iran and the main basis of which is the Islamic revolution, is based on a divine world outlook. It is not only based on the interests of the masses, but it has been created by the people and rests on the shoulders of the people. In Asia, Europe, Africa, America, Oceania, and every corner of the world where a movement in the name of Islam exists, its banner is carried by the people who are motivated by their belief in God and their opposition to materialism. It is exactly because of this that despite all the international pressure being inflicted on it, this great popular movement is constantly expanding, strengthening, and deepening. Even in a country where bullets, guns, tanks, radio waves, television pictures, and a variety of written material were used to feed the people with materialism and fight God for 70 years, we saw how the ice of the cold winter thawed and the belief in God and the path shown by the Islamic movement warmed the bodies of the people and melted away the ice of 70 years. Soviet Azerbaijan is a good example of this.

This clear reality shows, more than anything else, that Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, continues to live. He is not only alive, but is more alive today than he was in February 1979 or at any other time.

If the great Satan and the other satans, especially in the West, feared Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and lived in fear for a decade, then they continue to fear him today more than ever before, even though he is not among us. The reason for this is clear. Despite the 8 months that have passed since his death, his ideals continue to stand more strongly and more deeply now than at any other time and are traveling beyond the boundaries of the world of Islam. This has terrified the West, which thought that it would be the indisputable power after Communism's defeat.

The great and revolutionary Iranian nation, which created this great revolution which was led by its imam and inspired by divine motives, is now proudly witnessing the fruits of this revolution and of the epic deeds that will preserve and continue this revolution in the world.

It was the extremely high revolutionary alertness of this people that frustrated the satanic powers when the imam, may his soul be sanctified, died and that paved the way for the further strengthening of the revolution in the world.

There should be no doubt that communism has bowed down before Islam and not before the West.

On the eve of the 12th spring of freedom, even though we are saddened by the death of our dear imam, nevertheless the unity and solidarity of the nation in following the dear leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in continuing along the path of the imam, gladdens the hearts of all the friends of the revolution and instills hopes in them about the future of the Islamic movement and disappoints the enemies of the revolution. We are marking the first 10 Days of Dawn after the death of the imam at a time when all the followers of the imam's line are hopeful of a brighter future for the Islamic revolution in the world while carrying out the testament of our imam which is to preserve the sacred system of the Islamic revolution as the loftiest of blessings.

It is the preservation of this divine system that will make the "corrupt Western empire" kneel down and save nations from the satanic powers' yoke of slavery.

The Westerners have correctly understood that the world movement of Islam is the biggest threat to the "corrupt Western empire." It is we, the Muslims, who should—through our alert unity—prove that the West will be defeated by the world movement of Islam. God willing, we shall prove this.

*Report on 3 Jan 90 Majles Session

90OI0122A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
4 Jan 90 pp 5, 10

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning and afternoon the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

During this session, after talks by Messrs. Rezavi-Yazdi, Alviri, Fazel Hamadani, and Engineer Yusef-Pur, speaking as pre-agenda speakers, the Majles began its agenda.

The only item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the report from the secondary commissions on the Islamic Republic of Iran's first 5-year economic, social, and cultural expansion plan, for which some paragraphs proposed by the deputies were approved.

At the end of yesterday's public Majles session the Majles deputies read a letter of comprehensive support for the great position of the leadership.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, Mr Karrubi's remarks, and details of the proceedings.

Mr Seyyed Mohammad Rezavi-Yazdi, Representative of the People of Yazd

Mr Seyyed Mohammad Rezavi-Yazdi, from the Yazd electoral district, was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. He opened his talk by commemorating the anniversary of the martyrdom of Her Holiness Zahra (Peace Be Upon Her), true friend of the imamate and the vice-regency. He said: Without a doubt, our master His Holiness 'Ali Ibn-Abi Talib was the most worthy person to assume leadership of the Islamic nation after the Most Respected Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), and we believe that the history of humanity after the esteemed Prophet of Islam has seen no one greater and higher than the person of 'Ali Ibn-Abi Talib, but he himself said "Whoever follows me follows Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him), I am a student of the Prophet of God." When we mention 'Ali Ibn-Abi Talib, we are not equating him with the Prophet of Islam. His greatness is in that he is a true student trained in the Prophet's school and way, because laying the foundation and making the crane go up and down are things only the Prophet can do, with abilities His Holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him) does not have, but for me and you, at the level of obedience, there is no difference between the son and the founder.

In the course of the Islamic revolution, his holiness the imam is the prophet of the revolution and the great leader is the most worthy person to assume the position of vice-regency of the Muslims. The imam said, I have made them great. Whatever the great leader has he also considers a blessing from the imam and the revolution. Let us not negate prophecy in order to make firm the vice-regency. The slogan "God is great, Khomeyni is leader" is our national and Islamic slogan and it is eternal. No word can replace the word "Khomeyni." The Majles has declared allegiance to the great leader and has shown its support for him over and over in word and deed. The great imam (may his grave be sanctified) and the great leader have declared an exalted position for the Majles time and again, and they have supported this house of the people.

The imam says that the Majles is at the head of all affairs, the center of all powers. The Majles has arisen from the people's cries of "God is Great." At the public Majles session of 7 Khordad 1367 [28 May 1988] the imam said "You also have the greatest role. You have the greatest tools for the selection of executive officials. For supervising executive officials, you are the only organization that can straighten the path of executive activity." In my view, for this reason the Majles is responsible for the organizations of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Yet Mr Aqa'i, who considers himself a pure supporter of this leader, writes that the Majles ought to dissolve and signs it, and someone else says the Majles has made an error. Clearly, the weakening of the Majles is the greatest blow to the leader, because the Majles is a powerful center that has always followed the line of the vice-regency.

His holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified) has always supported the Majles, and this is certainly the view of the great leader. On the basis of principles 76, 88, 89, and 90 of the Constitution, the Majles has the right to study and research all the nation's affairs. It can question the duties of the ministers, if necessary it can summon the president of the republic and each minister, and likewise the Majles is required to look into complaints from the people concerning the work of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers. This Constitution was achieved with the blood of thousands of martyrs and it has been affirmed by the dear imam and our great leader.

His holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him) has never allowed any political group to monopolize him. The imam was not exclusively associated with any special group, but like a father he guided all the political groups who believed in Islam on the path of the revolution. Without a doubt, our great leader, may God protect him, will not be exclusively associated with any special faction either. Those who try to monopolize the leader for themselves and accuse others of opposition to the position of the vice-regency are power-seekers who will stop at nothing to damage the true leaders of the line of the vice-regency. Unfortunately, however, their activities will achieve nothing other than insult to the position of the leader and their own disgrace.

The story of events two days ago at Tehran University is so sad. Is it correct, in the name of support of the position of the leadership, that we decide to speak for the students without coordinating it with them? Was there such a small number of Muslim students supporting the vice-regency of the chief theologian at Tehran University that we had to take students there by bus from another place? Is it proper for us to regard our educated younger generation as so immature and inexperienced that we organize a public display for them to put on, without expecting a reaction? Is it proper for us to act in such a way that our concerned Muslim students who love the imam and the leadership walk barefoot from Tehran University to visit His Holiness the imam's pure shrine, when they see this political game, shouting "God's hand is above our head, Khamene'i is our leader" and apologize to us for the speech at the university mosque, as occurred in the demonstration they announced today? In God's name, swear that you will not do such damage to the leadership under the banner of friendship. Dear brothers, you who share a serious understanding of the principles of revolution, why do you allow someone into your midst who demonstrated his ability to cooperate with the SAVAK [the shah's secret police] under the oppressive monarchy? Then that gentleman becomes a supporter of the vice-regency of the chief theologian and a member of a family of three martyrs who are passionately devoted to love for the vice-regency of the chief theologian, and it is very surprising when he becomes opposed to the vice-regency of the chief theologian. The Majles, with the necessary dignity and calmness, for the purpose of protecting the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the great leader and the respected president of the republic, questioned the respected foreign minister. Yesterday Mr Velayati said: It is the right of the Majles to question a minister and it will strengthen the government. Who were those who forgot their dignity and said in speeches that this discussion is now before the Majles? Who was it? It wasn't me. If they mean the leader, it wasn't in the Majles. So who was it? I must inform them that only yesterday Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Bayat, aide to the respected speaker of the Majles, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Majid Ansari, the respected deputy of Zarand of Kerman, met with the great leader, and the great leader said "I was not referring to the question from the deputies, I was referring to people who want to clash with the Foreign Ministry out of personal motives." It is hoped that the people will properly understand the explanations of the respected foreign minister.

Continuing, the Yazd deputy said: I consider it necessary to make this point. In the equations they usually use in diplomatic practice, assuming we can be content with equations, we must say that two important elements are missing from these equations, one is the nations, their circumstances, and their support for the Islamic revolution, the other is the political prestige of an ideology known as Islam, and with these the results of the equations would be different. Why should our behavior in India reach the point that imam Bokhari, the leader of the Muslims of India, should refuse to receive our envoy? I call upon the minister of foreign affairs to work more carefully in these matters, and not to forget our dear imam's decisive counsel to rely on nations in foreign policy. Why are our Muslim and believing students captives in imperialist clutches in England, suffering the most difficult torment because of obeying the command of the dear leader and opposing the infidel book "The Satanic Verses"? I call upon the respected Majles and the great government not to remain silent in this regard and to give an appropriate reaction.

In conclusion he said: I say to the beloved president of the republic, the Majles' vote for your cabinet and its realistic encounter with the 5-year plan showed that the Majles supports you and is a friend of your government, and will be. The faction opposing you, your government, and your economic programs are godless hoarders who have obstructed your economic programs again and again and they must be defeated. I also call upon the newspaper RESALAT not to distort my remarks, because there is much less value to it in distorting the words of a small student than in distorting the words of our great imam.

Morteza Alviri, Tehran Deputy

Mr Morteza Alviri, Tehran deputy, was the second pre-agenda speaker. At the beginning of his talk he announced that the Majles study of the first 5-year economic, social, and cultural expansion plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran will soon end, and the nation's framework in various dimensions for the five-year period will be clarified. He discussed the 5-year plan, saying: Although the government and the Majles have devoted much time to this plan, it is undoubtedly necessary to have it to achieve expansion. This plan will achieve its goals when all the conditions are met for its proper implementation. What are these conditions? In this limited opportunity I will try to discuss three important conditions for the achievement of the goals of the plan.

He cited the "culture of contentment" as one of the conditions for achieving the goals of the 5-year plan. He said: A simple equation shows that whenever the share of domestic gross production is less than consumer costs, the possibility for investment increases. Reduced investment in the nation in the first decade of the revolution due to the economic embargo, the drop in the price of oil and finally the waste and destruction of past investments due to the war combined to create such conditions for us that so far as possible in the first phase of the expansion consumer costs must be cut so we can invest. In the 5-year plan, growth of 5.7 percent is foreseen for private investment, and in view of the population growth there will be a growth of about 2.7 percent in per-capita consumer expenditures. Naturally, such growth in consumption will not permit free prices and rationing throughout the 5-year plan. The point that must be noted here is that although it is now necessary to ration the marketing of essential goods, it is even more necessary to combat the consumer culture, which constantly keeps alive the thirst for more consumption among the people, and this will bring with it special cultural losses.

Mr Alviri also said: If the marketing systems for goods is not accompanied by cultural controls and if the people themselves do not consciously accept the temporary conditions for future prosperity, unfortunately some of the consumer temptations will lead the people to seek easy comforts, and this will make the economic expansion difficult, and we cannot rebuild the country without a sustained struggle against the consumer culture. The Voice and Vision Organization has a sensitive role here, and it must plan its programs for this policy, which unfortunately it has neglected to do so far. In the same regard the Tehran deputy criticized the television serial "Mirror," and said: You can see that the serial "Mirror" has instructive, educational, and ethical points, but unfortunately it seems that it has been forgotten that people also live in the neighborhoods below Revolution Street. In these sets, you never see the life of a middle-class or oppressed Iranian. All the people have stylish lifestyles, the homes are filled with expensive furniture and luxury goods, and so on.... Although this program may depict the resolution of a fight between a bride and her mother-in-law, won't showing scenes like this to millions of viewers promote the Western and consumer culture that is a vestige of the oil economy?

The speaker then mentioned "national mobilization" as another of the conditions necessary for achieving the goals of the 5-year plan. He said: Although the 5-year plan requires certain things of the government, the primary burden and the driving force behind the plan is the people themselves. No plan in any nation has achieved its goals unless the people took part in its implementation. We must create conditions where every person can take part in the 5-year plan for reconstruction and find his special place, no matter what his beliefs, provided only that he has the right to live in this country and is interested in his own future and that of his children. A popular and strong government can even get help from a prisoner imprisoned for life in the achievement of the aims of the plan. The narrow molds must be broken. Work must be done outside the monopolies of the few who are bound to narrow-minded indicators or who think based on relationships. I think it necessary in this area that we express our profound anxiety. Not only must we take steps to attract and employ manpower that can serve this government, but we must also make use of our own existing manpower.

He added: Look at what the bickering over the past few days has been about. Several deputies, acting on their legal responsibility, questioned the foreign minister, and the great leader of the revolution explained that such questioning is the right of the Majles deputies. What is this commotion about? Who is opposed to the leadership, after all? Why do they act in such a way that during the Tehran Friday prayers some haji cries out "where are these 45 Majles deputies so that I can put them in a purse." Wouldn't these people who are making this fuss be ashamed if they could see the whip marks that are still visible on those who were beaten under the shah's regime for the crime of supporting the vice-regency of the chief theologian? I say in good faith to the brothers, if someone seeks to eliminate the opposing faction, they should know that this is against the views of the dear imam (May His Grave Be Sanctified) and also against the view of the great leader, and Mr Rezavi has mentioned this subject. The sentence he quoted was "if a faction wants to eliminate another faction, we will deal with them."

Mr Alviri also discussed the matter of supervision, and the necessity for Majles supervision. He said: A good law demands good implementation and permanent supervision over its implementation. At different times we have seen different instances of law. One of the powerful tools the Majles can use to achieve the goals of the 5-year plan is the permanent continuation of its own supervision. This supervision can be carried out by questioning ministers. It can take the form of discussions in commissions, amendments to former laws, and the prevention of violations. Therefore, the question the deputies asked was neither the first nor the last such question, and was done so that Majles supervision can be strong and so that laws which were written and amended as the result of toil will find their place.

Fazel-Hamadani, Bahar and Kabutar Ahang Deputy

The third pre-agenda speaker was Fazel-Hamadani, Bahar and Kabutar Ahang Deputy, who said: My remarks are mainly on tangential topics. At one time five Central and Eastern European nations such as Romania had an apparently common and tangential border with the Soviet Union, and between the fall of 1943 and the spring of 1948, less than four and one-half years later, ideological points in common with the communists appeared, and in various assurances and commitments Stalin promised them their territorial independence, the integrity of their land, and that there would be no Soviet intervention. However, based on what the Koran calls the outcome of human nature, they follow the same basic path of creation, a path that is firm and unwavering. However, the Fascist government of Nazi Germany finds a permanent foothold in Romania, and not some leftist or communist line, and Ceausescu is immediately sent in a period of two days and the Muslims of Bulgaria pray as a body in the mosques and places of worship and the Communist Party of this nation and other neighboring nations is dissolved and their false walls fall down.

He added: Now the despicable face of America, like a ghoul, beats off the anger of the nations of the Third World from behind the walls of Panama while the nations of the East, group by group, flee from the dry and unkind embrace of their lying mother, the communists, and seek points that will show to them the genuine line of their nature. Why, instead of presenting this correct line of their nation, do we guide them to the blind and important points, unless it is because the continuation and constant steadfastness of our revolution and school of thought is based on that genuine line of human nature?

Continuing, Mr Fazel Hamadani noted: Yesterday a policy was written and was not read, now, whatever the reason for it was, the question is, in a government that arose in a place along religious lines, how can the religious lines be brought closer together? And we should build a place where these lines can be brought closer together so that in it the lines that appear to be far from each other but yet can be studied can have more points of contact. The leaders of these two political religious movements, who proclaim their allegiance to the revolution as they return and fight alongside one another at the front lines of the war, and their call of "death to America" rattle the palaces. And on the path of God, the same point and work that has taken over their entire being, they are ready to be taken prisoner, to be tortured, and to hear sarcasms, why are they so sad, and at the time when the two lines of East and West, which have fought and quarreled for years and have seen themselves as two points far apart, have begun trying to come closer in order to more effectively put pressure on the Third World Nations.

Continuing his remarks, he also said: We who began at one point and share several thousand common points, isn't it time that we came to ourselves and drew closer to one another?

'Ali Yusef-Pur, Arak and Farsan Deputy

Mr 'Ali Yusef-Pur, Arak and Farsan deputy, was the last pre-agenda speaker. During his talk he emphasized the sensitivity of the leadership. He said:

The decisive majority of the Majles are Shiites, followers of Shiism, and supporters of the respected government.

He then criticized the actions of some of the members of the Majles Governing Council. He said:

My first comments are criticism of some members of the respected Majles Governing Council, and it is hoped that His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Karrubi will himself get involved and resolve the problems that have arisen in the Majles Governing Council, and if the actions of some members of the Majles Governing Council were not the cause of the clash Sunday afternoon in the Majles, I would not be exposing this matter at all. I will cite several examples of the actions of some members of the Majles Governing Council.

1) Allowing their own policies and ideas to dominate in the KHABARNAMEH-YE MAJLES, for which I have numerous examples. 2) Dominating some Majles programs, for example, before last summer's recess when the text of the interpellation of one of the ministers was submitted to the Majles Governing Council, the council's officials did something to announce the interpellation before the recess and then allow it to be implemented after the recess began.

3) During the terms of the First and Second Majles, it was the procedure in the Majles to read letters with more than 100 deputy signatures during the Majles session. Unfortunately some members of the Majles Governing Council, in order to advance their own views and to prevent the opposing faction from making use of this opportunity, decided that 136 signatures would be required for a letter to be read during a session, yet this decision is not just, for usually only one faction can make use of this opportunity. This is at a time, however, when under current circumstances there are 261 deputies in the Majles and everyone knows that under current law a majority of 90 can enact and declare a law in the Majles. Following the decisive and lofty comments by the great leader of the revolution concerning support for the respected government and the Foreign Ministry, we saw a flood of support for the nation's Friday imams throughout the country on the part of the various classes of people. Our brothers Mr Alviri and Mr Rezavi said that the great leader of the revolution said, we accept questions from the deputies without exception. But according to the respected president of the republic, a number of people have hurt the great leader. Who were these people? Were they in the air? This is the point of my remarks. Yes, questions ought to be asked, but then the respected president of the republic did not support it fully and decisively. Ayatollah Yazdi, the chief justice, declared his support. I am asking this question of the Majles Governing Council. I am asking, and the Majles Governing Council should answer at the podium. (Why do they become so uncomfortable?) Why do you leading members of the Majles keep silence at this time, and not only did you fail to assert leadership in this important matter along with the people, you obstructed the brothers who prepared a text for this purpose in order to explain the issue.

After the Majles Governing Council failed to support the recent comments of the great leader, some brothers prepared a text to be read, and at 11:30 last Monday morning more than 140 deputies signed it, and according to customary practice the Majles Governing Council should have read it at the end of the session, but they did not and said they would do so in the afternoon. During the interim, at the instigation of one of the members of the Majles Governing Council and several others, they talked several deputies into withdrawing their signatures. They therefore did whatever they could to get them to take back their signatures and the total dropped to 132. In this regard another group of people signed the text again and brought the total up to the minimum required. However, the nullification group, led by a member of the Majles Governing Council, continued its activities and in contact with other members of the Majles Governing Council who were present at the session, when the text was to be signed, they said Sir! It does not have the minimum number of signatures. There were 135 signatures, and a member of the Majles Governing Council, five of whom had not signed, could have signed and resolved the issue by bringing the number of signatures to the required minimum. Here is the text of the letter:

To His Holiness Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution (may your life be long), with greetings and praise to Almighty God that in the absence of our late imam you have worn the mantle of leadership, and you are one of the greatest and truest leaders, in order to perpetuate the exalted blessing of the vice-regency and the leadership. It is hoped that you will always be blessed by the boundless kindness of God and that you will guide the ship of the revolution through the heart of the waves of world events to the final victory, and we will always wear the mantle of obedience and loyalty to your leadership, and we will seek to benefit from the light that emanates like the sun from you as the successor to our late imam.

Oh dear leader! Since we Majles deputies, like the heroic and brave nation, know very well that the emergence of all Mohammadan Islamic values cannot be achieved except in the light of the vice-regency and the leadership, it is therefore our earnest desire that at whatever price it takes, we must not give up this great blessing and we must guard this priceless jewel, and we will drive away or fight against whoever tries to do the slightest damage to the great pillars of Islam. We equate obedience to that dear leader with obedience to the great Khomeyni (May God Be Pleased with Him) and the chaste founders of Islam, and we are determined to give our unstinting support to the respected president of the republic Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected government and the other insiders in our Islamic government, which is the guardian of Islamic values and the protector of the rights of the oppressed of the world.

In conclusion he said: They did not allow this letter to be read from the Majles rostrum.

After the talk by Mr Yusef-Pur, Mr Montajab-Niya, a member of the Majles Governing Council, said to Mr Karrubi: You must defend the Majles Governing Council, otherwise we have the right to answer the many lies that have been told.

Then Mr Akrami, another member of the Majles Governing Council, answered Mr Montajab-Niya, saying: Mr Montajab-Niya! I myself saw an instance and am prepared to talk about it.

Mr Karrubi's Comments

In his comments, Mr Karrubi answered Mr Yusef-Pur and said at the beginning:

The leadership and the vice-regency of the chief theologian belong to everyone, and everyone knows that the Majles is the living manifestation of this. The Majles has demonstrated its sincerity in this regard many times in various gatherings. This is something that is clear. Everyone, in the views and talks given, has shown that they follow the leader and our government derives its legitimacy from the leader. It is not our intention to prevent a deputy from weakening the leadership. They know this is their own responsibility. This is a great sin and act of oppression. Some have written that they follow a group. I say no, I say this is Mr Yusef-Pur's responsibility. I do not charge anyone with trying to link the leadership to a particular group. If there are people who are against the leadership, this is oppression against the leadership and unjust to the vice-regency of the chief theologian. This is certainly not a proper thing to do, and do not do this, I advise our brothers like Yusef-Pur, and if there are other brothers who would say this, in God's name really this is harmful. Why do you say these things? Something that has no reality, why do you say it? It is possible for someone not to say something in a certain place and in a certain way. This is everywhere, after all. Outside we have a group of counterrevolutionaries, we have materialists and communists which are everywhere in the world, but all of those who support the revolution are in the service of the revolution, the armed forces, the police, the people, the Majles, the government komiteh, the judiciary, the Council of Guardians, all derive their legitimacy from the vice-regency of the chief theologian. This is certainly not the right thing to do, I ask that it not be done in this way.

The speaker of the Majles then answered the problems raised by Mr Yusef-Pur. He said: Mr Yusef-Pur mentioned the interpellation of Mr Behzad Nabavi, and I was not here at that time, and as I understood his position, it was that the Majles Governing Council was an obstacle. First, Mr Hashemi is our leader. We therefore take the interests of our environment into consideration when we speak, and you say you said that he is our leader. While we affirm him and we promote him, we have problems with many of the things he says. At the same time, however, he was speaker of the Majles and he truly guided and managed the Majles in the best way, and his role in the executive power is completely clear. At that time he did not think the interpellation advisable and he emphasized that it will come to no good. This was a very responsible act and I agreed with it myself, and I tried to keep this from happening. I even remember that one day Mr Movahhedi-Saveji, one of the interpolators, came to the Martyrs Foundation, during that very Majles recess. I asked him in a friendly! way not to go through with the interpellation, but in any case it happened and lasted all day, and finally he (Mr Behzad Nabavi) received a vote of confidence.

Concerning the letter from the deputies, Mr Karrubi said: I must say that Mr Montajab-Niya has written that we wanted to read the letter carefully, and I called Mr Montajab-Niya to tell Mr Bahonar that the letter should not be read. During that time the letter was under discussion, I suggested that part of the letter not be read, for I was seeking a letter that all the deputies would sign. In any case, Mr Montajab-Niya said the letter should not be read then because the required 136 persons had not signed. I came and counted the signatures (Mr Montajab-Niya was there), unfortunately it was clear that there were not enough signatures, some people signed again, and some withdrew their signatures. In any case, they told them to withdraw the signatures, and what do I know about what they did. I was leading the session at the time.

Details of the Proceedings

The only item on yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the policy for the 5-year plan.

Overall goals: 1) Rebuilding and equipping the defense base and procuring its necessary needs in accordance with designated defense goals. 2) Reconstruction and new construction of production and fundamental capacities and of the social centers damaged during the imposed war, within the framework of the plan's priorities. 3) Increases in the quantity and quality of general culture in education and in the sciences and technologies in society, with special attention to the young generation. 4) The creation of economic growth to increase per-capita production, create employment, decrease economic dependence with emphasis on self-sufficiency in agricultural products, and controlling inflation. 5) Efforts to achieve Islamic social justice and security. 6) Procuring the minimum basic needs of the people. 7) Designating and amending the pattern of consumption to determine the needs of the human being and society in material and spiritual growth and evolution, while preserving human dignity and freedom. 8) Reforming the nation's executive and judicial structure and management in various dimensions. 9) Efforts to secure judicial security and strengthen the theoretical and scientific foundations of public equality before the law, the implementation of justice and support for lawful individual and social freedoms. 10) Judicial organization, just geographic distribution of the population and activities, appropriate to the relative tastes of every area excepting cases not permitted because of political and military considerations.

The Education and Training Commission made proposals concerning the overall goals which were approved by the deputies.

"Emphasizing and strengthening defense training in boys and girls schools."

"Expanding the educational space in accordance with the growth in the student population, the creation of the necessary education and training resources, the training of sufficient manpower for all areas, especially for children required to attend school with priority on the rural areas."

"Special attention to expanding academic and practical agricultural education."

The Majles adjourned for a rest at 12 noon.

Continuation of the Proceedings

Yesterday afternoon the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and discussed the policies of the bill for the 5-year plan.

The Education and Training Commission made the following proposal as a general goal:

"Procuring needs, expanding economic and social support for the families of martyrs, handicapped people, prisoners, veterans, and released prisoners, with emphasis on improving the standard of living, procuring suitable employment, helping with the affairs of the children of martyrs, and special attention to the education of veterans, combatants, the children of families of martyrs, handicapped people, released prisoners, combatants, and fighters (Witness schools [Madares-e Shahed])"

The proposal was approved by the deputies.

The reconstruction and strengthening of the defense foundation based on the nation's defense strategy (guidance) by means of: 1) Rebuilding and equipping the defense base with emphasis on the use of all the nation's economic and industrial resources and preventing duplicated and parallel efforts. 2) Establishing the executive conditions for the mobilization of the oppressed project, as the Islamic revolution's most extensive defense network.

Mr Shafe'i proposed that this paragraph be added to these paragraphs under the name Paragraph 3:

"Making the nation's defense industries dual-purpose."

This proposal was approved by the deputies.

Mr Shafe'i proposed the following two paragraphs, which were approved:

"Creating profound connections between the universities and the centers of higher learning with the production and research departments of the nation's production ministries and research institutions."

"Serious efforts to utilize Iran's water rights in border rivers."

Pakistan

6 Killed in Indian Border Firing; Envoy Summoned

BK1202014290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0104 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Six persons were killed and a number wounded during the firing by Indian forces at the Line of Control near Chakkoti in Kashmir yesterday. Four others were captured by the Indian forces. This information was provided by Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan at the national conference on Kashmir. He said that according to reports, the Indian forces fired at people who were demonstrating in connection with the anniversary of the death of prominent Kashmiri freedom fighter Maqbool Butt, the martyr.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said that the firing by Indian forces on these unarmed people, who allegedly crossed into the Indian side of the Line of Control, has caused deep grief in Pakistan. On receiving the report, the Pakistani foreign secretary established contact with the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad and asked him to tell the Indian authorities in New Delhi that we are deeply grieved by the report and that they should act with extreme restraint while dealing with unarmed people.

The Indian high commissioner will receive the necessary details from New Delhi and is expected to inform the Pakistani Foreign Office of these details this morning. The Pakistani Government hopes that the Indian security forces will refrain from any such acts of violence which may further vitiate the atmosphere.

Kashmir Subject of Joint Session of Parliament

Bhutto Addresses Session

BK1002170090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto informed Parliament this evening that Pakistan is fully with the people of Kashmir in their just struggle and assured it that the elected government will take steps according to the aspirations of the people. She was addressing the joint session of Parliament, which was convened to discuss the Kashmir issue in the light of the latest situation prevailing in occupied Kashmir. The prime minister said history bears testimony that Pakistan never accepted India's aggression against Kashmir and has always extended moral and political support to the Kashmiri people in their freedom struggle. She announced that there will be no decrease in Pakistan's support on Kashmir affairs.

Rejecting India's allegation that Pakistan is providing assistance to the Kashmiri freedom lovers, the prime minister said we have exercised restraint so that the situation is not vitiated. We fought two wars with India over the Kashmir issue and do not want a third war. The prime minister also said that Pakistan cannot be intimidated or threatened, as the people know full well to protect their independence and sovereignty. They have the will, morale, and capacity to defend them, and the Armed Forces of the country are prepared and alert to protect their motherland.

Benazir Bhutto stressed the need for working with extreme responsibility and care to prevent war hysteria. She assured the Parliament that at any cost the government will never risk the independence, stability, and security of Pakistan. She said the just and durable solution for the Kashmir issue should be found through peaceful negotiations. She said emphatically that following a peaceful path does not mean that Pakistan will deviate from its solid stand that the people of Kashmir should be given their right of self-determination through a free and fair plebiscite according to the UN resolutions, to which India is also bound. The prime minister said the solidarity and internal unity of the people of Pakistan demonstrated in the recent week of solidarity with the people of Kashmir have strengthened the peaceful stand of Pakistan regarding a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue. Thanking the opposition leaders for expressing solidarity with the people of Kashmir, she said that it is a shining example of their patriotism and statesmanship.

The Indian Kashmiri people will be confident that they are not alone in their (?struggle) and that they have the support of 100 million people of Pakistan. Referring to the reaction of the international community on the Kashmir uprising, the prime minister said there is support for the right of self-determination, dignity, and strength of human lives, and she specially urged the Muslim ummah not to be remain silent at a moment when the blood of innocent Kashmiri people is being shed.

The prime minister assured Parliament that the government is carefully reviewing the situation in occupied Kashmir and the steps of the Indian Government and that it is taking the necessary steps to apprise the international community of the actual situation. She said all that happens in occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a natural process and the expression of the aspirations of the people of Kashmir for freedom, which India failed to accept. It is not the work of a handful of people but, in a real sense, it is a people's struggle which has given strength to the future wave of freedom in the entire world.

The prime minister said India's attempts to involve Pakistan in the Kashmir affairs is only to externalize the situation and to divert world attention from whatever happens in occupied Kashmir. She said that while accusing Pakistan, India could not provide any evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the Kashmir uprising. She said Pakistan and the international community and Muslim world cannot remain silent about the atrocities unleashed by India on the innocent people of the Kashmir Valley and India's firing bullets on them. She recalled that Pakistan has always supported the right of self-determination everywhere, including Palestine, Afghanistan, and Namibia, and that it will do the same in the Kashmir issue.

Referring to the role of late Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, she said he performed tireless efforts for the cause of the Kashmiris. Even after signing the Simla Accord, on his appeal a total strike was observed in occupied Kashmir on 22 February 1975.

At the request of the prime minister, the members of Parliament prayed for the salvation of the souls of people who sacrificed their lives during the struggle. Maulana Fazlur Rahman, who led the prayers, prayed for the success of the struggle of the Kashmiri people and for further strengthening of Pakistan's unflinching support to the Kashmiris. During the prime minister's speech, the members thumped their desks, expressing support.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan moved a resolution on the Kashmir issue, which was unanimously prepared by the government and the opposition parties. The resolution expressed solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for the right of self-determination and urged India to desist from its atrocious attempts to suppress their demand. The resolution also demanded the final settlement of the dispute through a UN-sponsored fair and free plebiscite according to the UN resolutions. The resolution urged (?leaders) to expedite their efforts at the diplomatic level to pressure the Indian Government for a solution to the Kashmir issue and also proposed to set up a combined national council comprising the government and opposition members to express support for the stand of the Kashmiri people at the national and international levels.

The leader of the combined opposition, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, assured the government that the opposition will extend unconditional support for the Kashmir issue. He urged expediting the efforts to consolidate global public opinion in favor of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. He said combined opposition had [words indistinct] announced its full support to the government on this issue and it will adhere to it until the government continues its efforts for a solution to this issue. However, he said, the government has lagged behind in the diplomatic field and it has not mustered the necessary support from the international community to bring pressure on India to stop atrocities in occupied Kashmir and grant the right of self-determination to the people there. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said [words indistinct] it is evident that India will not be ready to hold a plebiscite in occupied Kashmir until it is forced by world public opinion to do so. Immediate efforts should be made in this regard, and we should utilize every resource in this connection. He especially made the proposal to bring this issue before the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and the UN Human Rights Commission. He assured the Kashmiri people that the people of Pakistan will fully support them in facing the present challenge.

Amir of Jammat-i-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmad demanded that Parliament should announce as its moral duty before concluding the session that all help will be extended to the Kashmiri people in their struggle. Parliament should also urge the Islamic world to express its support in relation to the Kashmir issue.

Details of the joint session of Parliament are still coming in.

Earlier, the Parliament members were apprised of the latest situation in occupied Kashmir at a special meeting. The foreign minister apprised the people's representatives of the facts of the Kashmir problem and the government's policy.

Bhutto Denies 'Foreign Agents'

BK1002142590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto assured the nation and the Parliament that the elected government would take all steps keeping in view of the aspirations and wishes of the people on the Kashmir issue. Addressing the joint session of Parliament in Islamabad this evening, the prime minister said Pakistan will not compromise on the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We will continue our support for the implementation of the UN resolution for a free and fair plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir.

Benazir Bhutto said the Indian Government today charges Pakistan for the present uprising in the held Kashmir. She made it clear that there is no other objective to this attempt than to externalize the issue and divert the attention of the international community. She said a mass uprising cannot be termed a work of foreign agents. It cannot be termed the work of a handful of people of Kashmir. She said the Kashmiris have never accepted Indian occupation and had struggled for their right of self-determination. India occupies Kashmir against the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan has religious, geographic, and cultural ties with the people of Kashmir. The week of solidarity, which ended yesterday, has proved that the entire Pakistan nation is united on the Kashmir issue.

Resolution Adopted Unanimously

BK1102092290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] The joint session of Parliament has unanimously adopted a resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and demanding final settlement of the Kashmir issue through a fair and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. The resolution, adopted before prorogation of the session last night, calls upon India to desist from its ruthless suppression of the demand for self-determination by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, winding up discussions on the Kashmir situation, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, described Pakistan's policy on Kashmir as effective and said it has succeeded in bringing the Kashmir issue to world attention in its true perspective. It has shattered the Indian bogey that it is a settled issue. He said Pakistan now occupies moral high ground on the Kashmir issue and its stand will continue to gain strength in the coming months.

Referring to the support being received by Pakistan as a result of its diplomatic offensive, the foreign minister said the secretary general of the Islamic Conference, as a spokesman of all the member-countries, has backed our just stand. Saudi Arabia, which is the current chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers' conference, has also supported Pakistan on the issue.

Rejecting opposition's criticism that the government has moved slowly, the foreign minister said he has personally briefed the heads of all foreign missions in Pakistan and sent letters to foreign ministers of various countries, explaining the correct position in occupied Kashmir and countering the Indian propaganda. Pakistan has also made a forthright statement about India's violations of human rights before the UN Human Rights Commission.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan opposed calls for abrogation of the Simla agreement, saying it would convey to the world that Pakistan does not believe in peaceful solution of dispute, thus (?undermining) its position.

About demands for raising the Kashmir issue before the United Nations, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said it would be examined after due deliberations as that option is open to us. However, we would have to ensure that we are able to achieve a supportive resolution which is not weaker than the two resolutions already passed by the Security Council.

Karachi Situation 'Peaceful'; 1 Killed 9 Feb

BK0902155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The overall situation in Karachi during the curfew relaxation hours from 1200 to 1500 remained peaceful today. However, according to reports, one person was killed by sniper fire during curfew hours in Nazimabad area this afternoon. The body could not be identified and it was transferred to the Abbasi Shahid Hospital.

Meanwhile, police recovered five burned bodies from a van in Orangi area today. Hospital sources told a Radio Pakistan correspondent that these people, apparently 25-30 years of age, were probably killed more than 24 hours ago. Official sources told the Radio Pakistan correspondent that the bodies could not yet be identified and it seems that they were killed somewhere else and the bodies were later brought to the area. Police are investigating the incident. Meanwhile, massive patrolling is continuing in the curfew-bound areas of the city.

'Warring Parties' Make Contact

BK1002110090 Lahore THE NATION in English 10 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi—The two warring parties in the recent disturbances in Karachi, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] contact each other reliable sources confided on Friday [9 February].

The attempt for compromise was made by certain quarters keeping in view the very serious nature of law and order. Such a contact was arranged in Karachi where the local leaders of both the parties came to a table.

Informed sources said the MQM higher command has not confirmed such communication with the ruling party.

Both the sides at their organisational level are expected to sit again on Saturday.

2 Killed, 4 Wounded in Exchange of Fire in Gilgit

BK1002101590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] A press note issued by the the Gilgit district magistrate says two persons were killed and four wounded in an exchange of fire between two groups yesterday. Twenty-four persons have been arrested in this connection. The administration has made all security arrangements to bring the situation under control.